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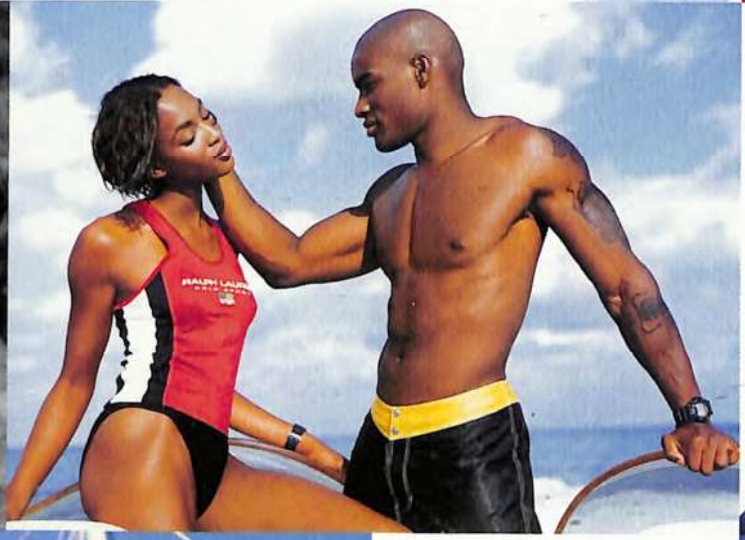

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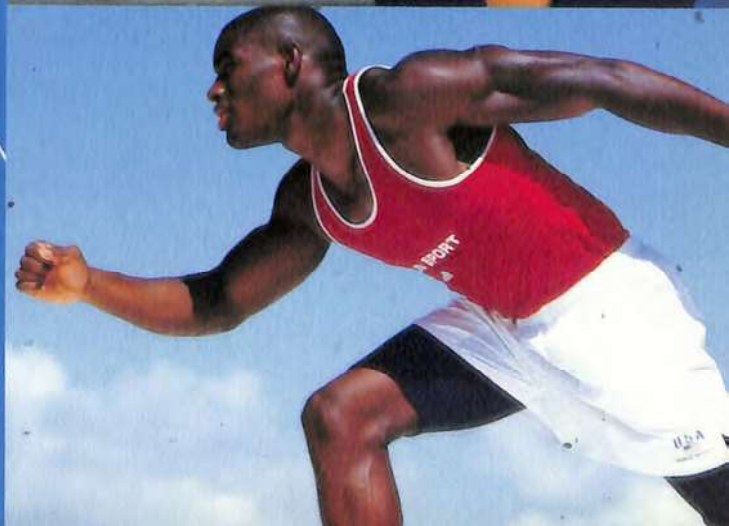

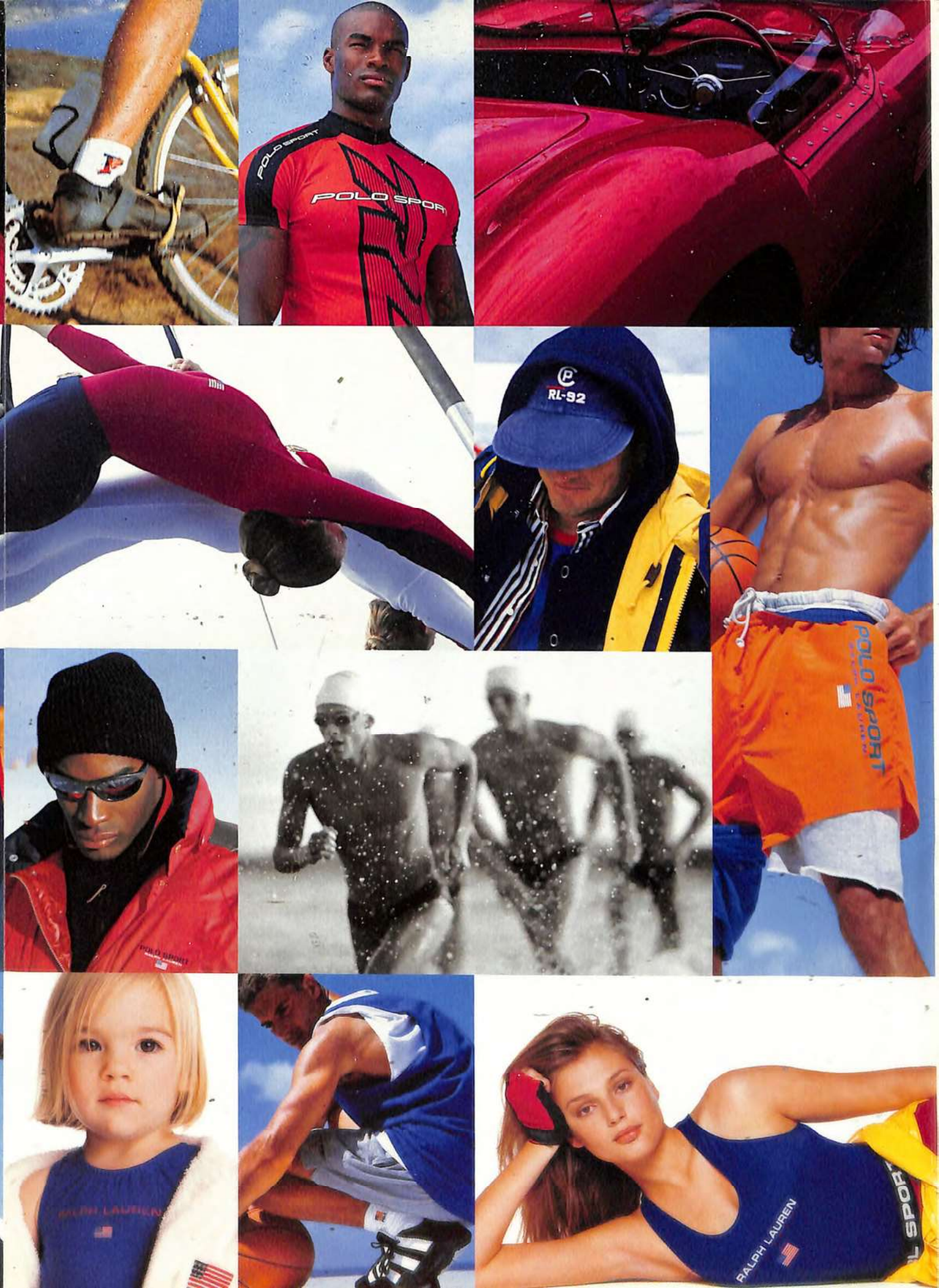
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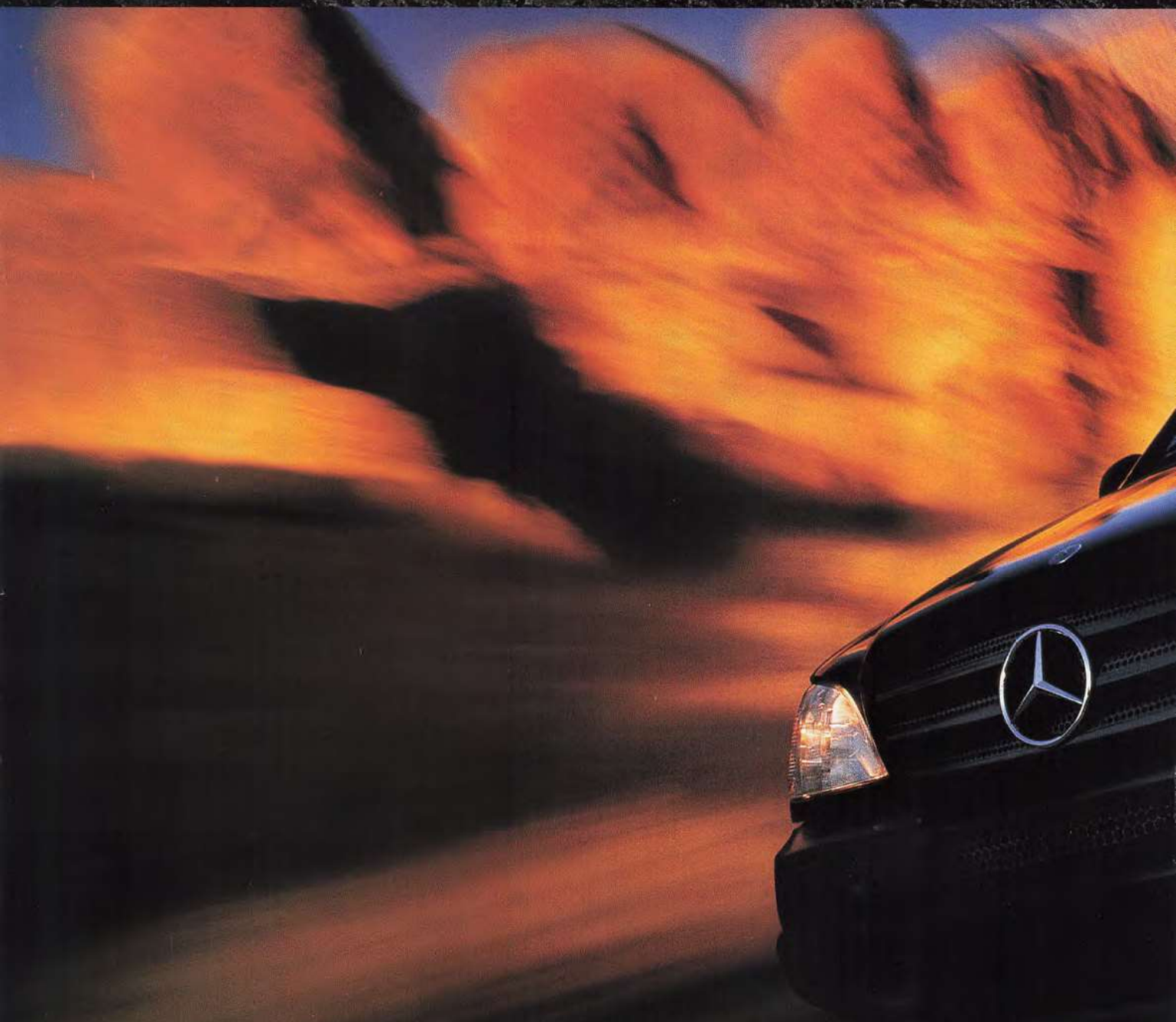

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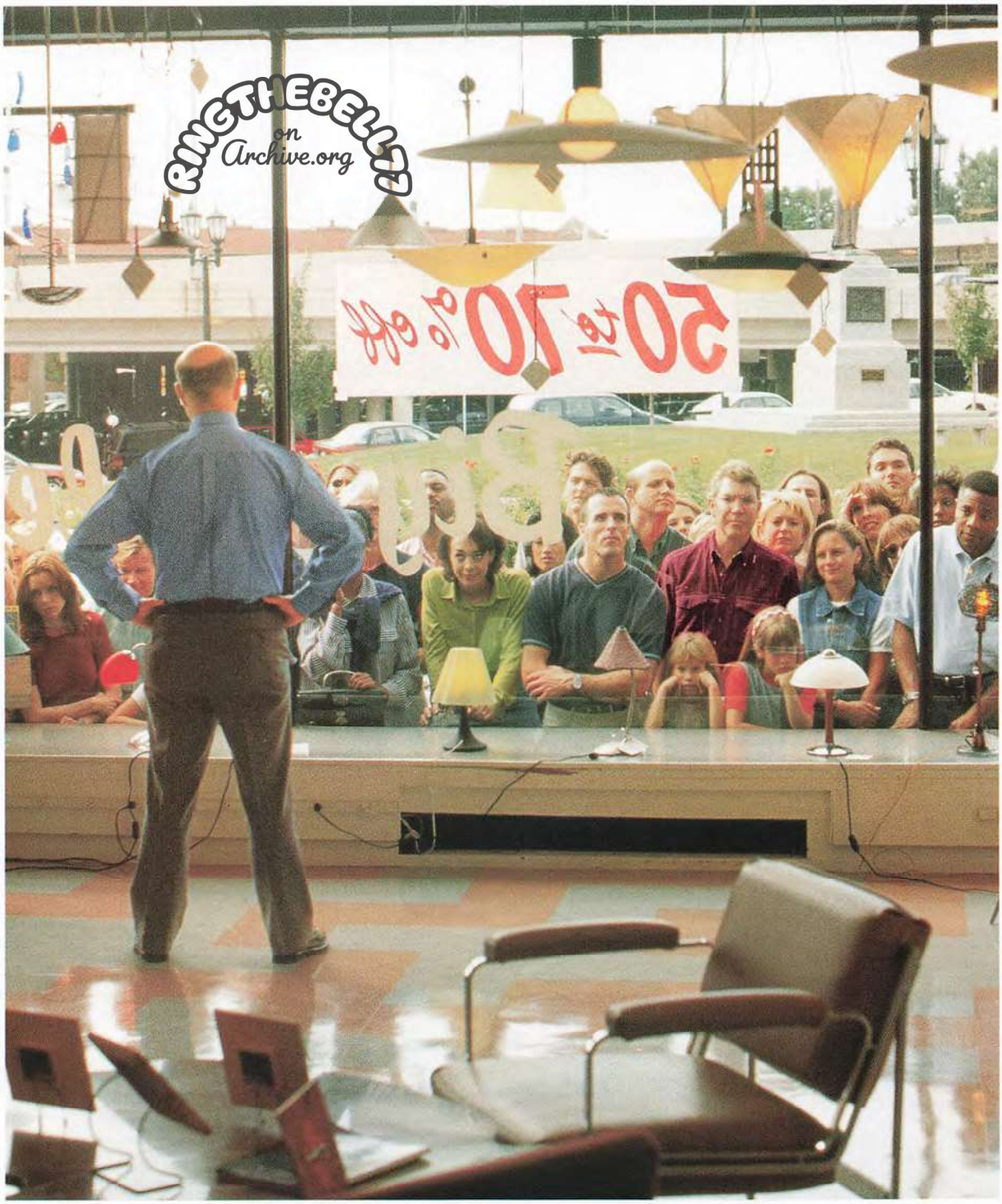

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SUPER BOWL XXXII

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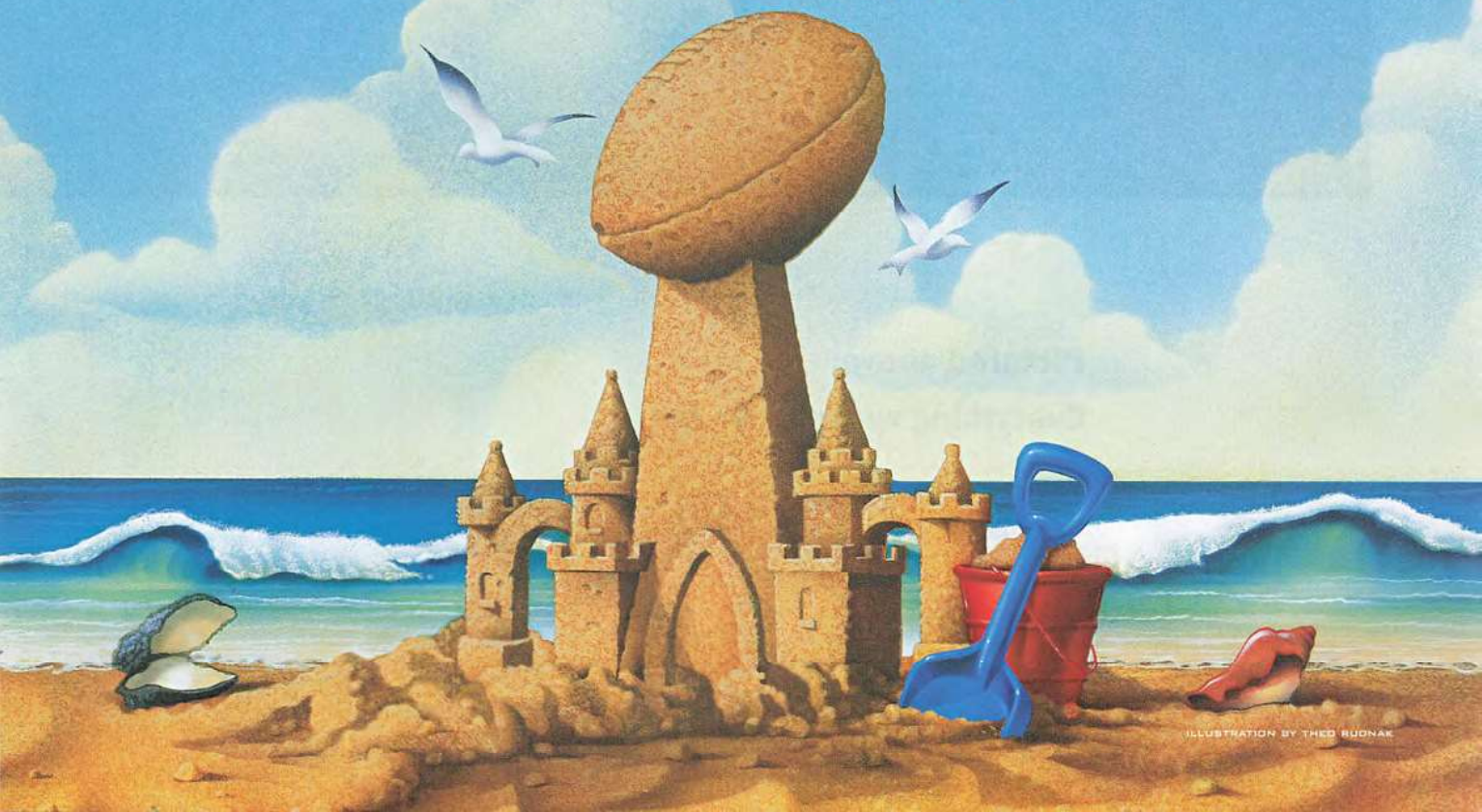
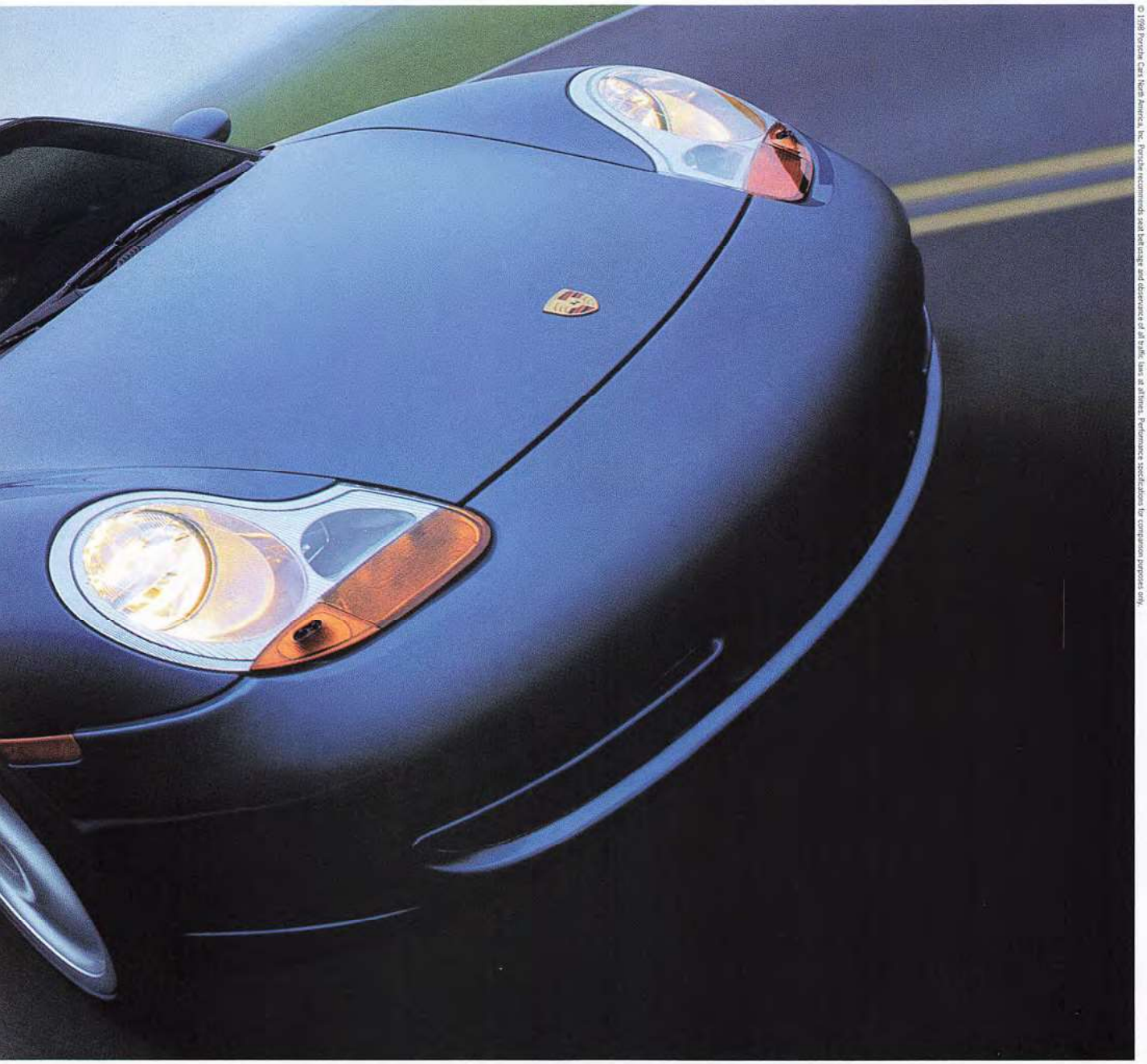


ILLUSTRATION BY THEO RUDNAK

Pictured above:

Everything we know so far.



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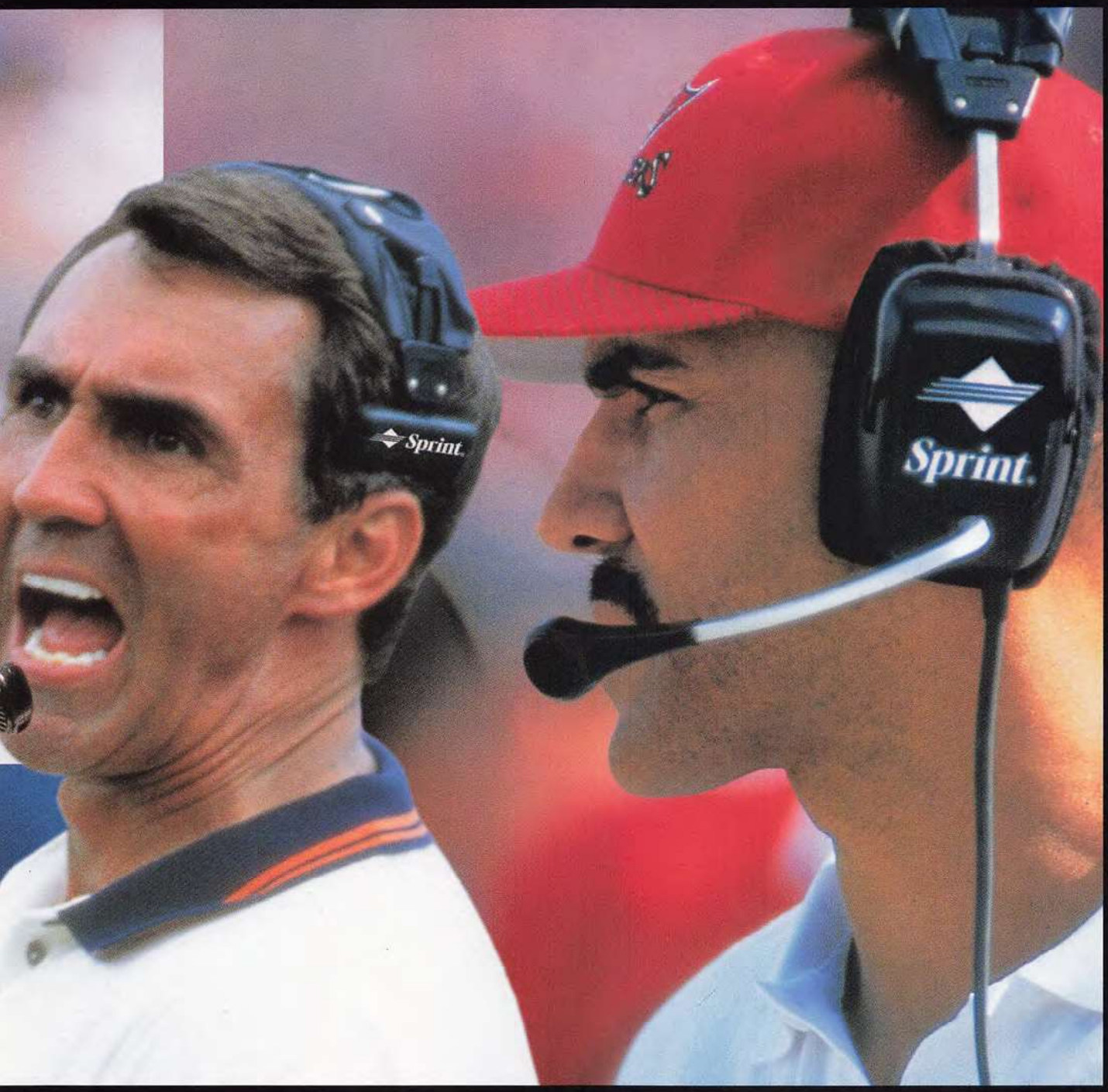

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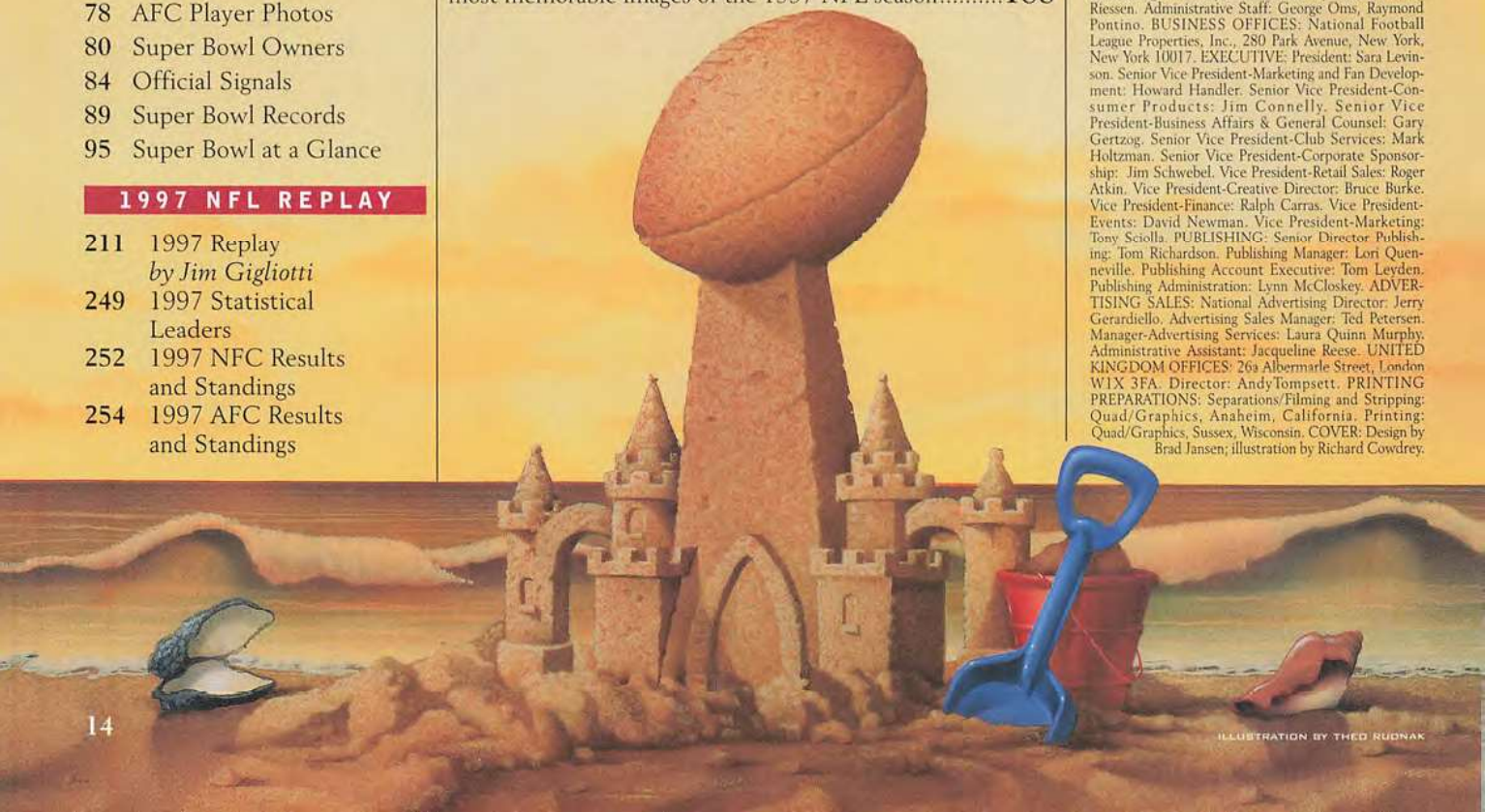

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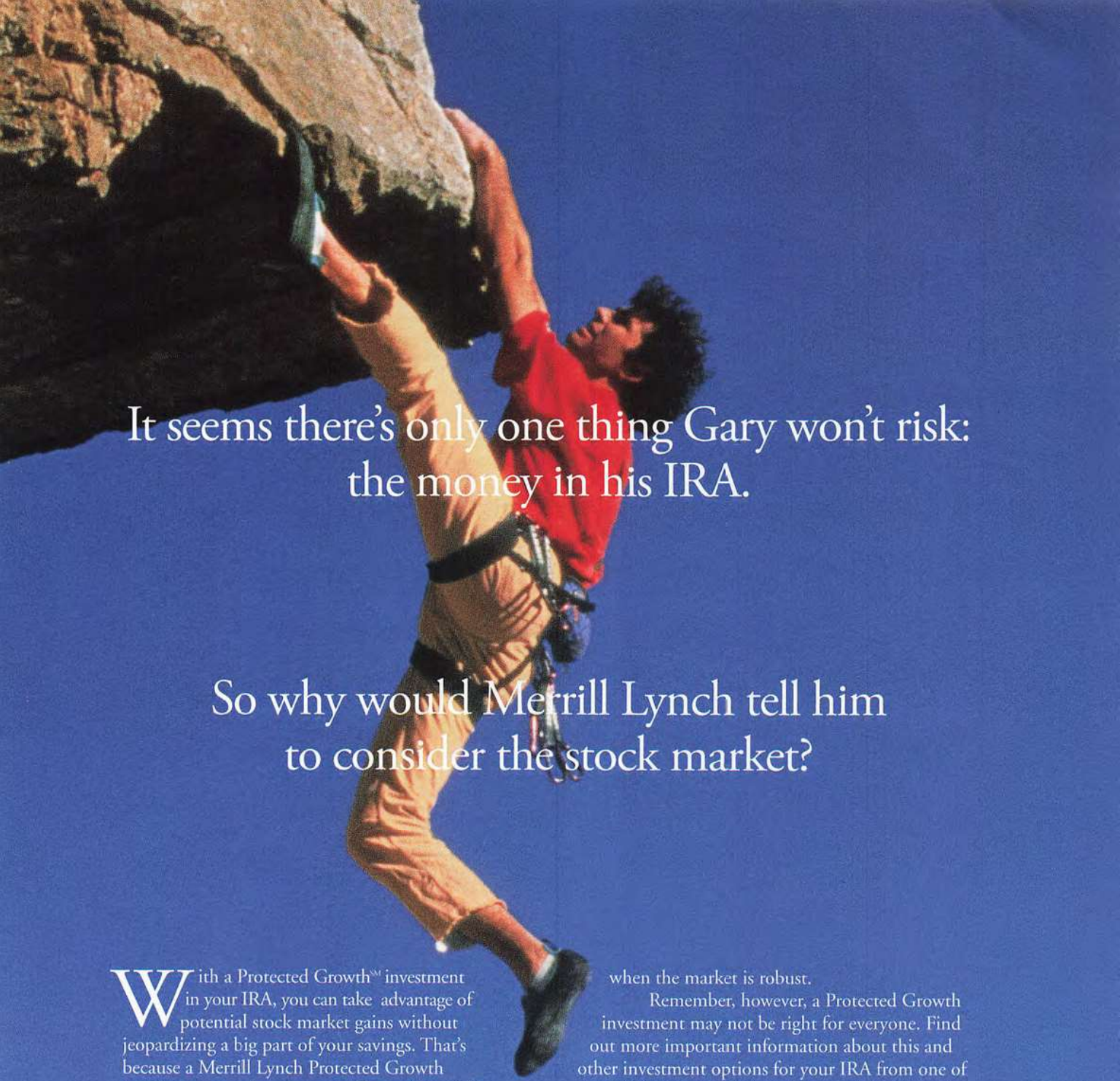

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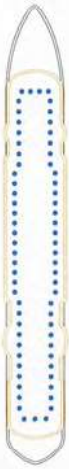

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FOR DAVE BOSS

By John Wiebusch

No other league, no other sport, has anything to compare with NFL Publishing. No other league has a group of people with the collective skills to create and produce its print products from start to finish.

This Super Bowl program is only one example in our sea of print. Working out of a city without a team, Los Angeles, we have our fingers on magazines, books, trading cards, posters, tickets, credentials, brochures, premiums, educational tools, and reference works. From the media, to the teams, to the general public, there is hardly an aspect of the Super Bowl in which we have not had some kind of publishing role.

The roster of talent in NFL Publishing stretches back more than three decades. Some of its names, past and present, are listed in the by-lines of this magazine, and all of the current names are listed on page 14.

Yet, it is likely that none of those names would be there if it were not for a man whose name is *not* listed there.

Dave Boss guided our destinies for more than a quarter-century, until he stepped aside in 1990. He made his dreams come to reality on the printed page, and he brought all of us along for the wonderful ride.

National Football League Properties, of which NFL Publishing is a marketing arm, was founded in Los Angeles in 1963 by a man named Larry Kent. One of the first people he hired was Dave Boss, who had been doing free-lance projects for the Los Angeles Rams since the 1950s (when the Rams' general manager was Pete Rozelle).

Today, when the combined forces of the National Football League and NFL Properties assemble, an auditorium is needed. In those days, the entire gang, East and West, could gather around a conference table in New York.

It was there, in December, 1966, that Dave Boss got the good news for which he had been hoping: Jim Kensil, Rozelle's right-hand man, told Boss that the game program for the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game (it wasn't called the Super Bowl until Game III) was his to produce.

"We had less than four weeks to get the program done," Boss says. "It truly was the supreme challenge. Everyone wanted the program to be a very special memento of a much anticipated event, and we were starting from scratch. We had to invent—and invent quickly—as we went along.

"Another sensitive thing was that because we were a subsidiary of the NFL, there was some apprehension by AFL teams that they would not be fairly represented. We bent over backwards to be unbiased. We worked night and day—even Christmas Day and New Year's Day. It was a real labor of love, but we did it. The program was there for sale at the Los Angeles Coliseum when the Packers and Chiefs played on January 15 [1967]."

There was little offsite sales of the program in Los Angeles (or in Green Bay and Kansas City, for that matter). Only some 40,000 programs were printed at a cover price of $1. Today, it is the ultimate Super Bowl collectible: A mint-condition program for the first Super Bowl sells for as much as $500. And for all the investment tales you could tell from the past 32 years, consider this: If you had purchased all the Super Bowl programs at the time they were released, you would have spent $147. The value today of a full set of Super Bowl programs is more than $3,000.

"We never thought much about money in those days," Boss says. "Mostly we just strived to do the best in everything we did. And when it came to the Super Bowl program, we'd ratchet our standards up a notch. We tried to better ourselves each year. Pete Rozelle wanted production quality, and we delivered—great content, great paper, great printing, great product."

NFL Publishing set the standard for sports and entertainment publishing. We still do. And for that we give a metaphorical Gatorade shower to Dave Boss.

We were friends and running mates for two decades. Dave lured me away from the *Los Angeles Times*—and a life of covering major league baseball—in December, 1970, not long after he had taken a stand worthy of Daniel Webster.

NFL Properties began in Los Angeles in 1963, but in 1970 all of the business operations were moved to the league offices in New York. Dave fought the move for the creative group, and he flew to New York to make his case with Rozelle. He told the Commissioner he would not leave Los Angeles, and he felt that Creative Services (that's what we were called then) could exist as a satellite operation on the West Coast. Rozelle did not want to lose Boss. He bought the argument: Creative Services would remain on the West Coast.

When Dave called me with the news, he said, "We are going to be here for the duration—or at least until the next battle! I would like you to think about being part of it."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 253

BOB ROSATO

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SUPER WEEK

SAT-SUN, JANUARY 17 & 18

HOLD THAT LINE!

After a season in the trenches, the NFL's best linemen get a moment in the sun during the Pontiac Bonneville Lineman Challenge on Sunday.

Top offensive and defensive linemen compete at The NFL Experience in front of ESPN's cameras in a variety of events that test their skills.

The event is one of a number of NFL positional competitions, which include Run to Daylight, the Quarterback Challenge, and the Pro Bowl Battle of the Gridiron.

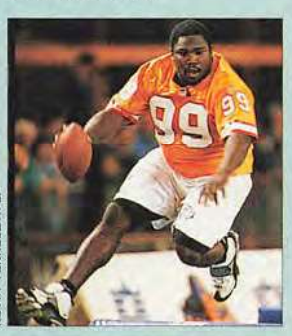

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ILLUSTRATION BY JOHNNIE BEE

Super Week Sets Sail in San Diego

San Diego is a city that is defined by its relationship to the water. So it is only natural that Super Week weighs anchor with the Super Sail. Sponsored by the San Diego Yacht Club, the event teams NFL players with local sailors and celebrities in sailboat races. A bayside family festival will provide entertainment for landlubbers during the races.

At the Thirty-Second Street Naval Base, the local champion of NFL Air-It-Out, the league's national flag football tournament, will be crowned this weekend. The San Diego winners will join champions from 25 other cities at the Air-It-Out national finals this spring.

At the Super Bowl Cheerleading Spirit Clinic, more than 1,000 local girls get some lessons in cheering from dance-team members representing several NFL clubs.

Helping kick off Super Week with a bang Saturday evening will be the Super Ball, hosted by San Diego Chargers' owner Alex Spanos and his family. The black-tie event will raise money for the Children's Hospital and Health Center.

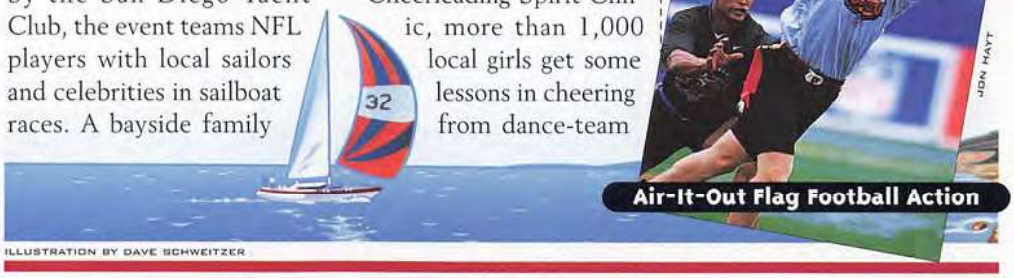

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE SCHWEITZER

JON HAYT

Air-It-Out Flag Football Action

By James Buckley, Jr.

THE SUPER BOWL CONTRIBUTORS GAME PROGRAM

ILLUSTRATION BY KEN JACOBSEN

PHIL BARBER
(Pages 108 and 185) A former NFL Properties editor, Barber is the co-author of *Football America*. He lives near San Francisco and writes for a variety of sports publications.

RAY DIDINGER
(Page 128) Formerly an award-winning sportswriter in a 26-year newspaper career in Philadelphia, Didinger now is a writer and producer for NFL Films.

RICHARD FORD
(Page 139) One of America's most acclaimed writers, Ford's best-selling book, *Independence Day*, is the only novel ever to win both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award.

JACK KEMP
(Pages 161) Before beginning a political career that has included terms as a Congressman and Cabinet secretary, Kemp was an all-star quarterback for the Buffalo Bills and San Diego Chargers.

KEVIN LAMB
(Page 98) Frequent *Super Bowl Program* contributor Lamb is a writer and editor for the *Dayton* (Ohio) *Daily News*. He was a contributor to *Total Football*.

AL MARTINEZ
(Page 151) Martinez is an award-winning columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, and author of *City of Angles: A Drive-By Portrait of Los Angeles*.

SCOTT OSTLER
(Page 142) Regular *Super Bowl Program* contributor Ostler is an award-winning columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the author of several sports books.

HAROLD ROSENTHAL
(Page 175) Rosenthal, 83, covered sports for the *New York Herald-Tribune* from 1933-1966, followed by stints as public relations director for both the AFL and NFL.

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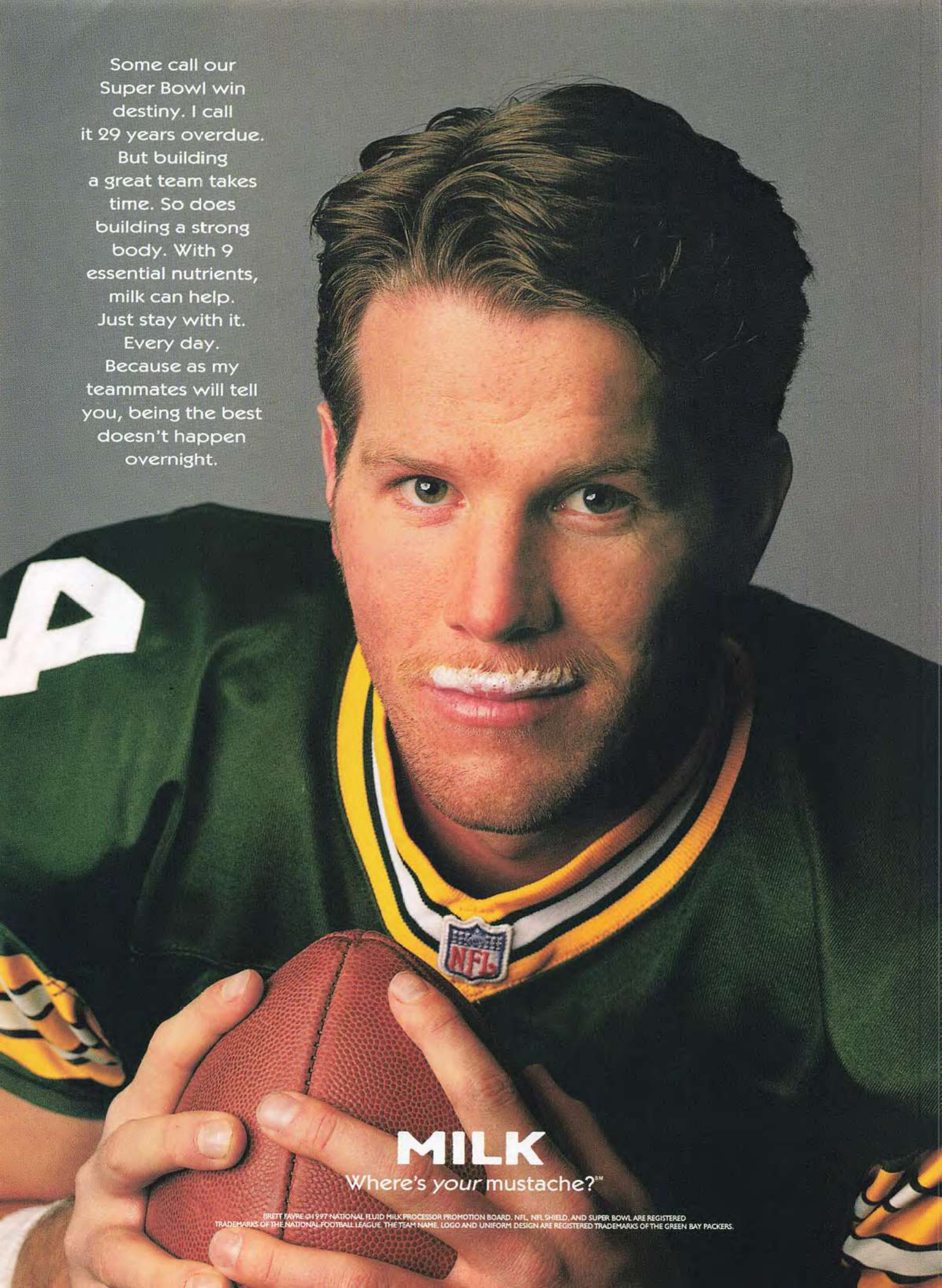
Some call our Super Bowl win destiny. I call it 29 years overdue. But building a great team takes time. So does building a strong body. With 9 essential nutrients, milk can help. Just stay with it. Every day. Because as my teammates will tell you, being the best doesn't happen overnight.
MILK
Where's your mustache?℠
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SUPER WEEK

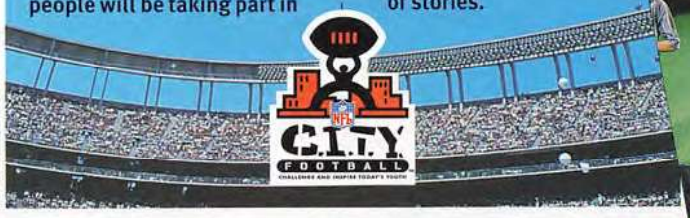
MON-TUES, JANUARY 19 & 20

The Players Arrive in Town...Followed by Millions of Media

Okay, not millions. But it sometimes seems like that many. The buildup to the biggest single-day sports event in the world begins in earnest Monday with the arrival of the two Super Bowl teams. Players from both clubs will spend the afternoon visiting children in local hospitals, family shelters, and youth centers.

Meanwhile, other young people will be taking part in an NFL C.I.T.Y. flag-football event. Designed to bring the game and the lessons it can teach to kids in the inner city, the NFL C.I.T.Y. program was conducted in seven U.S. cities in 1997.

The highlight of Tuesday's Super Week events is Media Day. Attended by journalists from around the world, the afternoon of player interviews and photos produces hundreds of stories.



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Super Kids

Play Football! has become the NFL's rallying cheer for its youngest fans, and that cheer will be heard loudly and often during Super Week. In fact, even before then: The Play Football Festival toured San Diego area schools January 12-16, featuring interactive football fun.

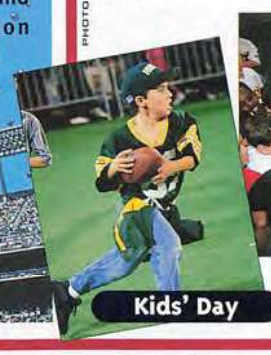
The annual Super Bowl Youth Clinics, January 17-18, kick off Super Week kids' events, giving local students a chance to meet and learn from NFL players.

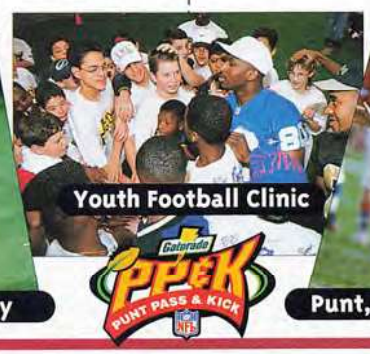
The sign reads "No Adults Allowed" during the wild and crazy Coca-Cola Kids' Day at The NFL Experience on Wednesday of Super Week.

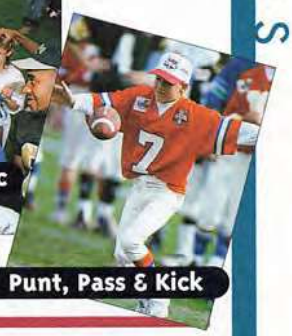
On Friday, the Sprint/NFL Good Sports Summit honors young essay contest winners who wrote on the Summit's theme. On Saturday, a Gatorade/ NFL Punt, Pass & Kick contest will be held. With more than 500,000 boys and girls from 8 to 15 participating nationwide, PP&K is the NFL's most popular kids' program.

Finally, to top off the week, 300 lucky kids will attend Super Bowl XXXII, courtesy of the hometown San Diego Chargers.

PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT: JERRY GALLEGOS, JERRY WARD, PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP







THE NFL ZOO

FOOTBALL'S WILD KINGDOM

NFL TEAMS NAMED FOR MAMMALS*

Carolina Panthers, Chicago Bears, Cincinnati Bengals, Denver Broncos, Detroit Lions, Indianapolis Colts, Jacksonville Jaguars, Miami Dolphins, St. Louis Rams.

A matchup of these teams is sure to start fur flying.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHNNIE BEE

*Non-human variety

SUPER BOWL ONLINE

Annually one of the busiest sites on the World Wide Web, superbowl.com offers an insider's look at Super Week and Super Bowl XXXII for fans around the world. Cybervisitors can hear live press conferences, see video clips of Super Week events, order Super Bowl merchandise, and check up on the two teams' latest news and statistics. An extensive history of the Super Bowl also is featured, along with interactive games and daily training-camp reports.

One of the site's unique features is its live cybercast of Super Bowl XXXII itself. Hosted by former Cowboys executive Gil Brandt and Bob Trumpy, an NBC announcer and former Bengals tight end, the cybercast gives fans an opportunity to e-mail questions that will be answered during the game. The site also will offer radio calls of the game in several languages.

Superbowl.com: Produced by the NFL in conjunction with IBM and NBC Sports

Players and Fans Tee It Up for Fun and Charity

The great weather and stunning scenery of the San Diego area make it one of America's golf mecas. Several golf events are planned during Super Week.

On Wednesday, the NFL Players Super Shootout, featuring top NFL stars, tees off at Coto de Caza.

The fourteenth annual NFL Super Bowl Charity Golf Classic is at Torrey Pines on Thursday. Since it became a regular part of Super Week, the Charity Classic has raised more than $1 million for NFL Charities and Youth Education Town Centers.

Saturday, Rancho San Diego will be the site of the first NFL Alumni Golf Classic.

Among the other events on Wednesday and Thursday is NFL Ride Like a Pro bike rodeo, in which youths learn about bike safety.

The players in Sunday's game, meanwhile, are hard at work on the practice field. Kickoff is three days away.

NFL Charity Golf

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE SCHWEITZER

WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

Super Bowls leave behind indelible memories of on-field action. But for the past six years, the Super Bowl also has left behind something just as lasting—an NFL Youth Education Town (YET).

In Super Bowl cities from Atlanta to Miami to Los Angeles, and soon to open in San Diego, YET centers provide after school educational programs, computer skills classes, and recreational activities for inner-city kids. Constructed with funds raised during Super Week, the centers have become lasting symbols of the NFL's commitment to helping young Americans achieve their goals.

SUPER WEEK

WED-THURS, JANUARY 21 & 22

The NFL Experience

The second-most popular part of Super Week has become The NFL Experience, the multievent, fun-for-all, interactive pro football theme park.

This year, The NFL Experience will blossom in an area adjacent to the Super Bowl, and will be open for more hours than ever before on seven days from January 16-25.

Visitors can try their hand (or foot) at dozens of football skills games: they can kick a field goal, catch a pass or a punt, throw a long bomb, or take the Quarterback Challenge. Fans also can see a re-created NFL locker room, check out memorabilia from the Pro Football Hall of Fame, visit the FootLocker Store, or enjoy the special Play Football! Kids' Zone. The free autograph stage will feature a parade of current and former NFL stars.

As always, the immense Super Bowl Card Show within The Experience will showcase hundreds of dealers of sports cards, memorabilia, and art.

All in all, it will be quite an experience.

January 16-25

Don't miss the fun at The NFL Experience!

JERRY GALLEGOS, MICHAEL HEBERT, DAVID DRAPKIN

ON THE EVE OF CONSTRUCTION

While celebration is the order of the day during Super Week, the NFL doesn't forget participation. As in the past, the NFL will take part in two charity home-building events during Super Week.

NFL players will be joined by Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and his wife Chan at the Christmas in April Kickoff to Rebuild.

Crews of volunteers will gather to help build and refurbish homes of low-income area residents. Christmas in April is a national home-renewal agency.

Another annual Super Week event is the Habitat for Humanity Super Bowl Blitz Build. In only a few days, dozens of members of the NFL family will construct new homes or rebuild old ones, for the benefit of low-income or elderly residents.

Mike Haynes

Paul Tagliabue

JERRY GALLEGOS (2)

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHARLIE PARK

THE NFL ZOO

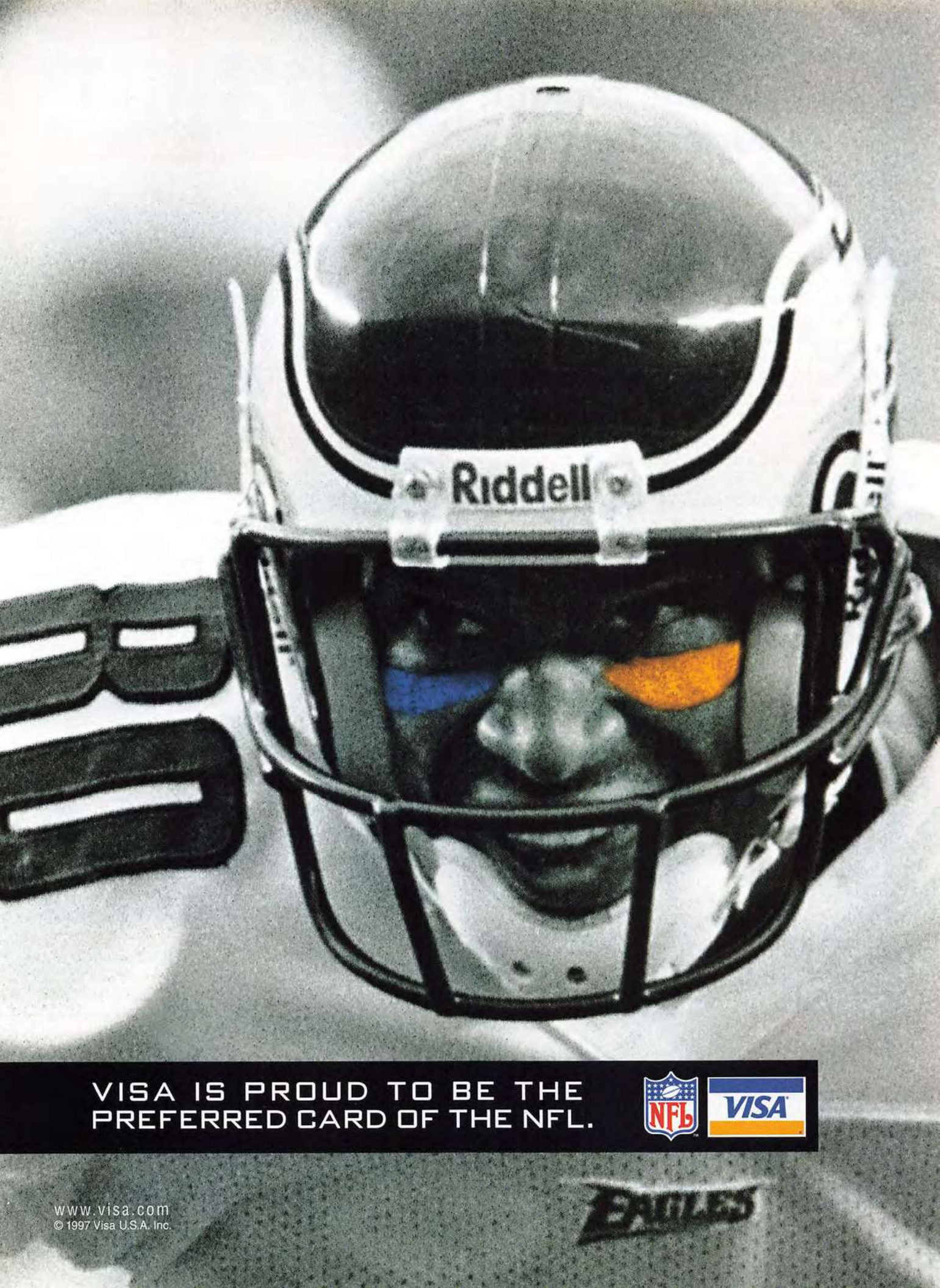
FOOTBALL'S WILD KINGDOM

EXTINCT NFL TEAMS NAMED FOR ANIMALS

Canton/Cleveland/Boston Bulldogs, Cleveland Tigers, Chicago Tigers, Columbus Tigers, Frankford Yellow Jackets, Milwaukee Badgers, Buffalo Bisons, Detroit Wolverines, Brooklyn Lions, Buffalo Bisons, Detroit Panthers.

The Yellow Jackets hold the distinction of being the only NFL team ever named for an insect.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHNEE BEE



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SUPER WEEK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

TV Coverage Tonight, TV Surfers Delight

The first night of TNT's SBTV coverage kicks off live from The NFL Experience Friday evening. The cable network shows viewers around during Super Week, letting people everywhere experience the thrill of being in the Super Bowl host city.

Along with tours of all the parties and hot spots, SBTV will air game previews, player interviews, video highlights, and the announcement of the annual Vinny Awards for Super Bowl excellence.

NFL on TNT studio host Vince Cellini will be joined by Sean Jones and Keith Jackson, who were part of Green Bay's Super Bowl XXXI-championship team. Verne Lundquist, Pat Haden, Mark May, Craig Sager, and Bryan Burwell also will appear.

SBTV's Live Coverage Starts Tonight on TNT

THROWBACKS BOWL

Fans will be saying "Hey, didn't he used to be...?" at Champion Throwbacks Bowl III. This flag-football matchup between teams of former NFL players is a fun mix of nostalgia and action.

Held on the field inside The NFL Experience and broadcast on SBTV, the Throwbacks Bowl gives players one more chance to prove they've still got it, and fans a chance to see their former heroes in action once again.

In 1997, Jim Plunkett (below left), MVP of Oakland's Super Bowl XV victory, led his AFC team against an NFC squad headed up by former Saints quarterback Archie Manning.

RON VESELY (2)

The NFL Stars of Yesteryear Come Out to Shine

It's Party Time!

The anticipation for Super Sunday is building as Super Week rolls on. To let off a little steam, visitors can check out a couple of great parties.

The San Diego Host Committee is putting on Super Fest XXXII in the city's Gaslamp Quarter. The two-day street festival will feature live music, dozens of food booths, art exhibits, and visits from NFL players.

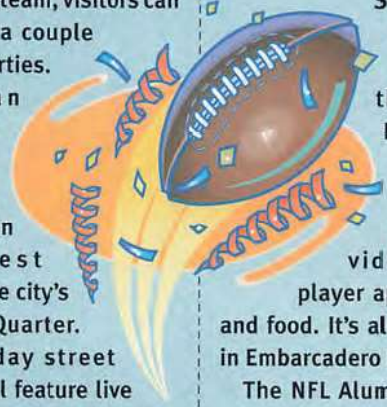
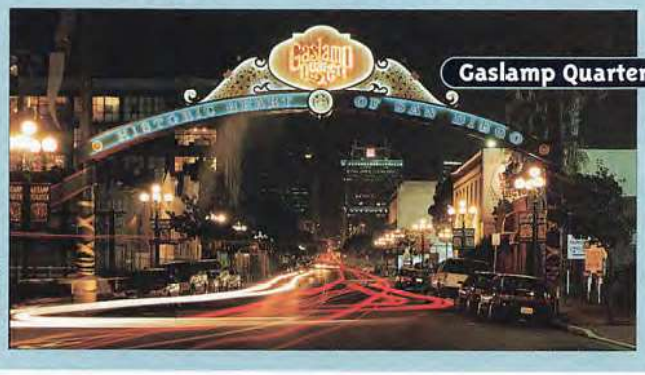


ILLUSTRATION BY JOHNEE BEE

Another celebration, the annual NFL Players' Association party, has become a Super Week staple. Sponsored this year by Playstation, the Players' Party features video games, player appearances, and food. It's all happening in Embarcadero Park South.

The NFL Alumni Association will name its Player of the Year Friday night at a gala awards dinner.



JOEL ZWINK

Gaslamp Quarter

A WORLD OF FOOTBALL

For the second consecutive year, Super Week will host the AFTI Global Junior Championships, pitting all-star players, ages 16-19, from Europe and Mexico. The game, a part of the Wilson World Partnership, is one of NFL International's many initiatives to increase knowledge and interest in football around the world.

The teams will kick off Friday night at Southwestern College's Devore Stadium.

GLOBAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP II

SAN DIEGO 1998

THE NFL ZOO

FOOTBALL'S WILD KINGDOM

NFL ANIMAL NICKNAMES

Part I: Ken (The Snake) Stabler, Willie (Flipper) Anderson, (Jaguar) Jon Arnett, Lance (Bambi) Alworth, Alan (The Horse) Ameche, Ted (The Mad Stork) Hendricks, Washington's "Hogs," Daryl (Moose) Johnston

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHNEE BEE

THE SAME SINCE THE SIXTIES.

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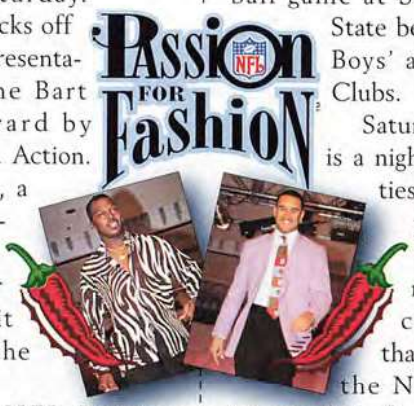
Your friends at Jack Daniel's remind you to drink responsibly.

Whet Your Passion for Food and Fashion

Super Week's crowded calendar packs a lot into Super Saturday. The day kicks off with the presentation of the Bart Starr Award by Athletes in Action. In Tijuana, a Super Fiesta brings the Super Bowl spirit south of the border.



JERRY GALLEGOS (2)

At the NFL Passion for Fashion show, NFL players and top models strut their stuff to raise money for local women's and children's charities. Meanwhile, a celebrity softball game at San Diego State benefits the Boys' and Girls' Clubs.

Saturday night is a night for parties, and none presents a wider range of cuisine than Taste of the NFL, with renowned chefs representing NFL cities. Sponsored by Coca-Cola, the annual event raises funds for national hunger charities.

NFL Players & Top Models Strut Their Stuff for Charity

SUPER WEEK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

THE SUPER BOWL ON TV & RADIO

NBC, the network that shared the telecast of Super Bowl I, broadcasts the game for the fifteenth time this year. Dick Enberg (see page 178) will handle the play-by-play. He'll be joined by commentators Paul Maguire and Phil Simms, the former Giants quarterback who was the MVP of Super Bowl XXI.

Westwood One and CBS Radio will broadcast the game nationwide, as well as to the Armed Forces Radio Network. Howard David and Matt Millen, a former NFL linebacker who earned Super Bowl rings with the 49ers, Redskins, and Raiders, will call the game.

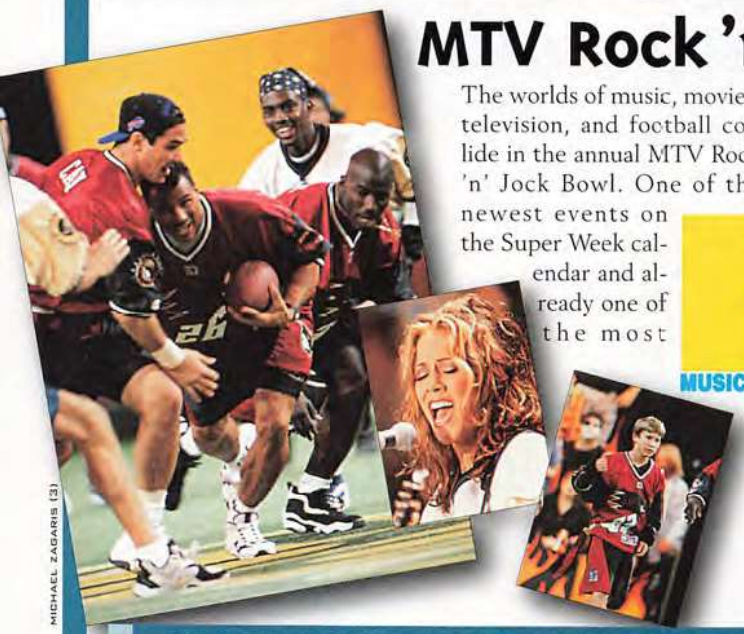
International audiences will hear live television or radio coverage of the game in at least 10 different languages. This year, people in more than 180 countries and territories will watch Super Bowl XXXII on television.

ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC PALMA

The NBC Announcers

(LEFT TO RIGHT) PHIL SIMMS, DICK ENBERG, AND PAUL MAGUIRE WILL CALL THE GAME.

MTV Rock 'n' Jock Bowl



MICHAEL ZAGARIS (3)

The worlds of music, movies, television, and football collide in the annual MTV Rock 'n' Jock Bowl. One of the newest events on the Super Week calendar and already one of the most popular, this flag-football game matches teams made up of NFL players and entertainment stars.

MTV MUSIC TELEVISION®

As the game (the term is used loosely) progresses, rockers become runners and singers become sackers. Touchdowns count, but so do touchdown dances. There are forward passes—and also questionable laterals. Trick plays rule the day. MTV will broadcast the game later in the week.

THE NFL ZOO

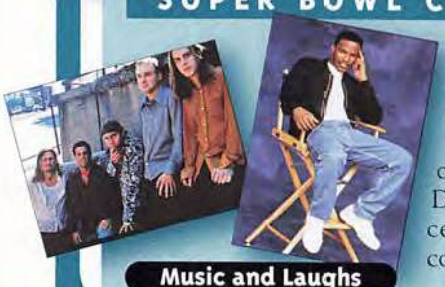
FOOTBALL'S WILD KINGDOM

NFL Animal Nicknames

Part II: Bill (Big Tuna) Parcells, Carl (Spider) Lockhart, Tony (Goose) Siragusa, Clyde (Bulldog) Turner, Roger Wehrli (Bird), James (Big Cat) Williams

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHNEE BEE

SUPER BOWL CONCERT SERIES HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



SAM ERICKSON, WARNER BROS. T.V.

Music and Laughs

There is something for everyone in the Super Bowl Concert Series.

Held on stages and in concert halls throughout San Diego, the Super Bowl Concert Series adds music and comedy to Super Week.

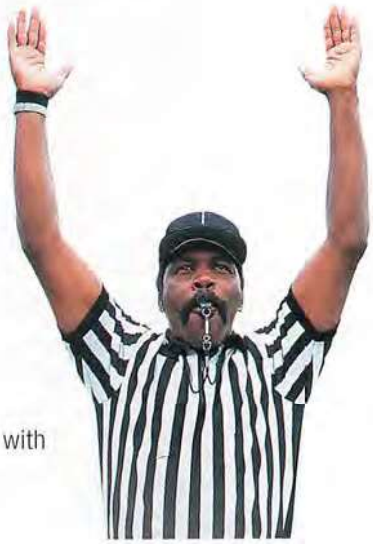
Scheduled to appear are comedian and television star Jamie Foxx (left), watermelon-smashing comic Gallagher, and Celtic sensation Lord of the Dance.

At the Miller Time Concert Series at The NFL Experience, a series of nationally known young rock bands will take the stage, including Chumbawumba, Sister Hazel (far left), Cowboy Mouth, Matchbox 20, and Sugar Ray.

THE NFL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AT THE SUPER BOWL ONCE AGAIN WILL WORK WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND VENDORS TO MANAGE SOLID WASTE RECYCLING AND EXCESS FOOD COLLECTION.

EVERY TIME STEVE YOUNG THREW A HOME GAME TOUCHDOWN, WE GAVE A COMPUTER TO A SCHOOL.

This past season, Sun Microsystems and the Forever Young Foundation teamed up with Steve Young to provide kids with powerful technology for their education. For every touchdown Steve threw or ran for in a 49ers home game, we provided a northern California school with all the technology and expert assistance necessary to get on the Internet.



Sun microsystems

Now entire student bodies are preparing for the future. That was the deal, but next year we're picking a third stringer. THE NETWORK IS THE COMPUTER.™

(STEVE, BUDDY, YOU'RE KILLING US HERE.)

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SUPER WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

SUPER BOWL PREGAME SHOW

California Dreamin'

The music and history of California will be celebrated in today's Super Bowl Pregame Show.

Less than a year from today, California will celebrate its 150th year of statehood. The opening segment of today's show will kick off that sesquicentennial celebration with a re-creation of the 1849 Gold Rush that helped put California on the map.

The second segment will highlight the diversity that has made California so vibrant. Representatives of six of the state's ethnic groups will demonstrate music, dance, and costume of their native lands.

During this segment, the popular singing group The Fifth Dimension will perform, as will country singing star Lee Greenwood.

The Super Bowl pregame show will culminate in a tribute to the great California sound of the Beach Boys. A star-studded musical performance will be led by the Beach Boys' Mike Love and Bruce Johnston, who will be joined by special guests Glen Campbell, John Stamos, Dean Torrance, and David Marx.

Comedian and television star Phil Hartman of "NewsRadio" will narrate the pregame show.

RANDEE ST. NICHOLAS

The Fifth Dimension

Mike Love

Lee Greenwood

PREGAME SHOW CREATORS:
Executive Producer: Bob Best
Associate Producer: Ed Jones
Choreographer: Lesslee Fitzmorris
Talent Executive: Rob Heller

Oh, Say, Can Jewel Sing

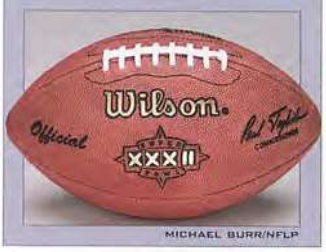
Multiplatinum recording star and San Diego area resident Jewel ("Pieces of You") will perform today's National Anthem. She will stand at midfield in front of a 100-yard American flag. Phyllis Frelich will perform the Anthem in sign language. A flyover by a multiservice air group will follow the anthem.

ANDREW SOUTHAM

Jewel

SUPER BALL

Since 1954, Wilson has supplied the official ball of the NFL.



MICHAEL BURR/NFLP

SUPER SILVER

The Super Bowl XXXII champion will receive the Vince Lombardi Trophy, named for the Pro Football Hall of Fame coach who led Green Bay to five NFL championships, including Super Bowls I and II.

The most valuable player of today's game will receive the Pete Rozelle Trophy. This award is named for the late NFL Commissioner.

Both pieces were created for the NFL by Tiffany & Co.

MICHAEL BURR/NFLP (2)

Rewards for Greatness

You Be the Director!

At a number of seats in the Super Bowl XXXII stadium, Vyvx is providing ChoiceSeat interactive screens. The seat-mounted screens give viewers the opportunity to call up replays from several angles, check statistics in real time, see NFL Films videos, and purchase Super Bowl merchandise.

THE FLIP IS UP...IT'S GOOD!

ILLUSTRATION BY SANDY GORDON

The coin toss before Super Bowl XXXII will be performed by two former members of the Washington Redskins, quarterback Doug Williams and coach Joe Gibbs, who had success in Super Bowl XXII, when San Diego previously played host to the game. To read more about their memorable day, see page 128. They will be joined by Eddie Robinson, Williams's college coach, who retired from Grambling in 1997 as college football's winningest coach. Williams recently was named to replace him.

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YOU HAVE NO COACHES OR TEAMMATES. NO FANS, REALLY, EITHER. NO TIME-OUTS. NO

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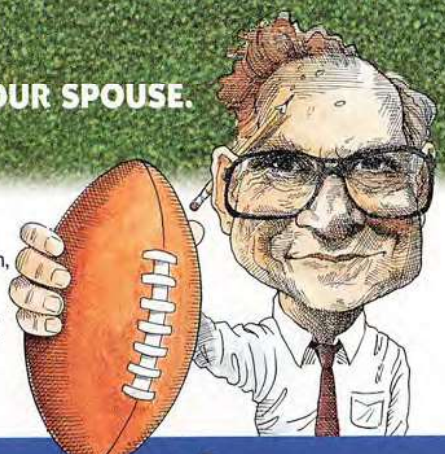
UGLY RINGS TO WIN. NO RISKING YOUR NECK. WAIT! YES, YOU DO HAVE TO RISK YOUR

NECK BUT YOU DON'T GET A HELMET. NO CHEERLEADERS. NO CONCESSION STANDS.

NO TURF TOE. NO COMMENTATORS, EXCEPT MAYBE YOUR SPOUSE.



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SUPER HALF

THE MUSIC

A SALUTE TO MOTOWN: 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Stay Put for Halftime, Get Up and Dance!

While the Super Bowl itself is a great show, the action doesn't stop when the teams break at halftime. That's when the Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises Super Bowl XXXII Halftime Show kicks off. The show will feature a salute to Motown, celebrating the record label's 40th anniversary. It will be the fifth Super Bowl halftime show for Radio City Productions, producers of the Michael Jackson and Diana Ross halftime shows.

Queen Latifah

Martha Reeves

The roster of Motown artists who will perform reads like a Who's Who of superstar musical talent.

Boyz II Men's unique sound has helped them become one of the country's top-selling groups. Their recent album "Evolution" reached number one on two *Billboard* charts.

Smokey Robinson is one of Motown's most successful performers; he has been a part of the label from the start. Beginning with his group the Miracles, and later as a solo performer, Robinson has created numerous hit records, including "Tears of a Clown," "I Second That Emotion," and "Being With You."

As lead singer with Martha and the Vandellas, **Martha Reeves** helped create such hits at "Jimmy Mack," "Heat Wave," and "Dancing in the Street."

The Temptations have made as much history with their smooth dance style as their vocal harmonies. They have created such hits as "My Girl," "I Can't Get Next to You," and "Papa Was a Rolling Stone."

The Four Tops have produced 35 albums of memorable hits, including "Baby, I Need Your Loving" and "Reach Out (I'll Be There)."

Multi-talented **Queen Latifah** is an actress, singer, and entrepreneur. She recorded the million-selling album "Black Reign."

More than 1,000 dancers and performers will take part in the field-spanning spectacle, which will be broadcast live by NBC.

Part of the proceeds of the show will benefit the United Negro College Fund.

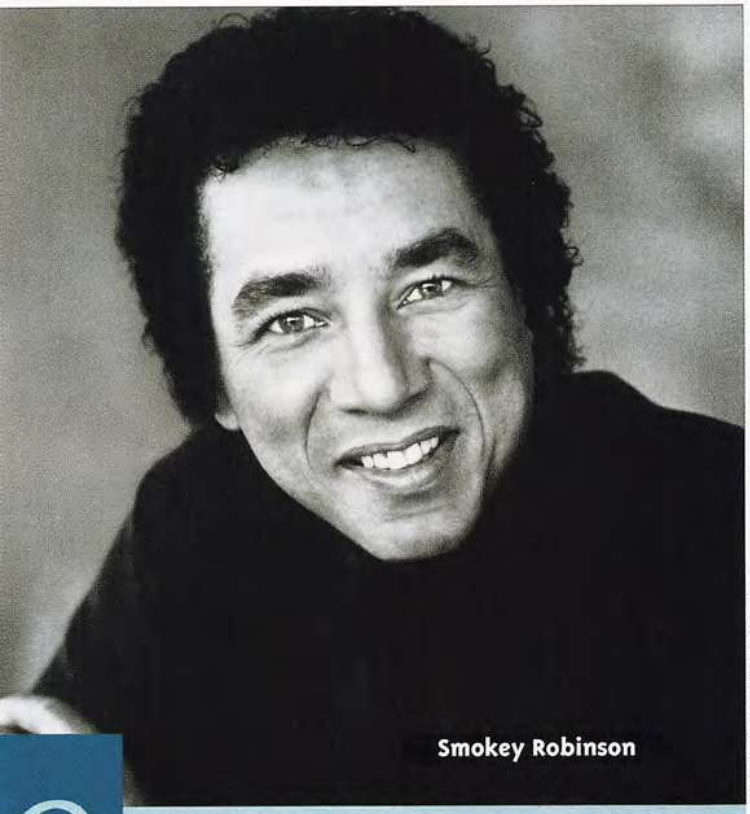
Boyz II Men

REISIG & TAYLOR

motown 4

The Temptations

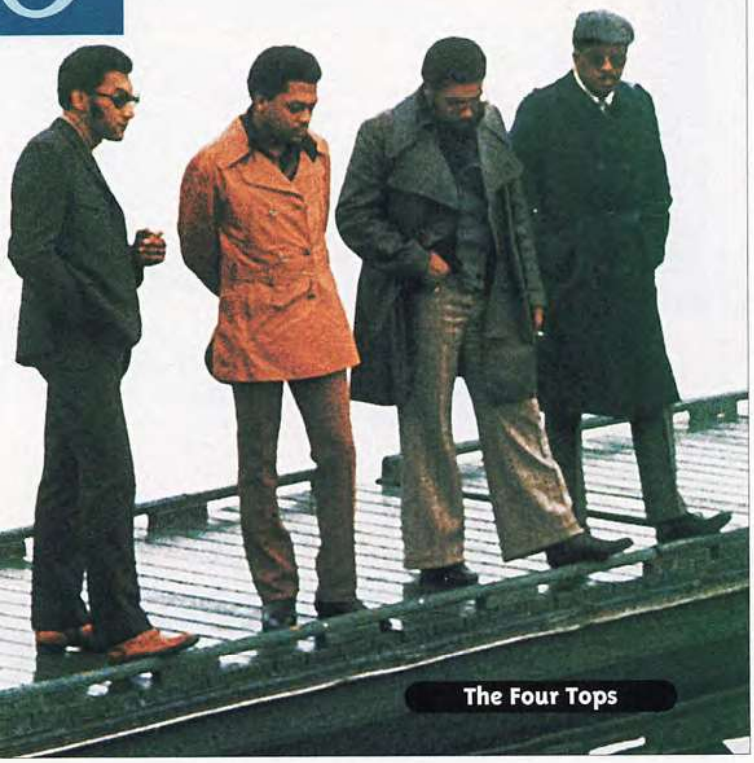
TIME BOWL OF MOTOWN



Smokey Robinson

COURTESY OF MOTOWN RECORDS

O FOREVER!



The Four Tops

COURTESY OF MOTOWN RECORDS

SUPER BOWL XXXII
HALFTIME SHOW

RADIO CITY PRODUCTIONS
A Cablevision Company

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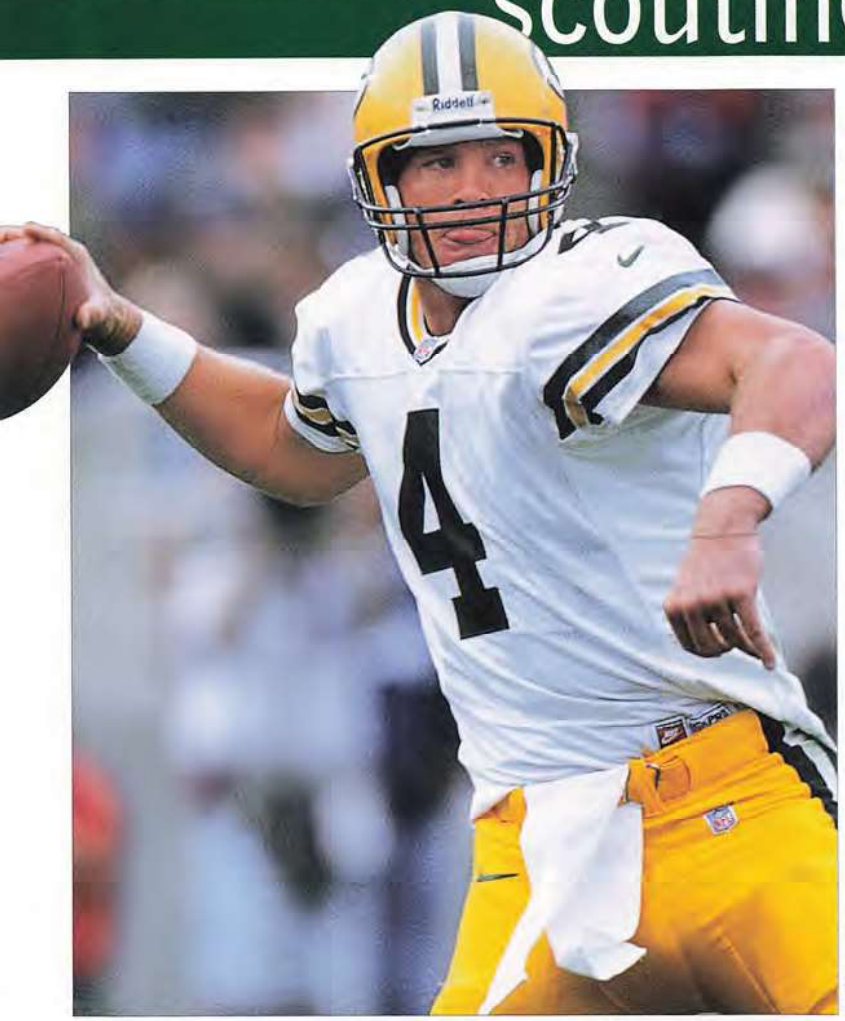


DAVID STLUKA

MVP X 3: *Three-time NFL MVP Brett Favre is the first quarterback with four consecutive 30-touchdown seasons.*

The Pack Is Back to Back If History Is a Barometer

Ronald Reagan was beginning the fourth year of his first term as President.

Bill Clinton, 37, was in the second of five terms he would serve as Governor of Arkansas.

Bill Gates, 28, was the president of a fledgling company called Microsoft. He was not on the Fortune 500's radar screen.

Mike Holmgren, 35, was an assistant football coach at Brigham Young University.

Brett Favre, 14, was coping with adolescence in Kiln, Mississippi.

It was January, 1984, and the Berlin Wall still was in place, the Japanese were gobbling up American real estate, and a team from the American Football Conference was winning the Super Bowl.

At the end of their second year as Los Angeles transplants, the Raiders trounced the Washington Redskins 38-9 in Super Bowl XVIII in Tampa.

And then, to borrow a word from Edgar Allan Poe, Nevermore.

In the 13 Super Bowls that have been played since that day, there have been 13 NFC victories and the average score has been roughly NFC 38, AFC 17. Seven games were decided by margins ranging from 19 to 45 points.

Nevermore is a long time, and it remains to be seen, of course, whether nevermore will continue in Super Bowl XXXII in San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium.

In one corner are the Green Bay Packers, masters of the NFL universe in Super Bowl XXXI a year ago, winners of three Super Bowls without a loss (the Packers of Vince Lombardi won games I and II), winners of more NFL championships (12) than any other team.

In the other corner are the Denver Broncos, four-time losers in the Super Bowl, including 3 of the past 11.

Overconfidence may be the Packers' major opponent.

Green Bay brings a 15-3 record into the Super Bowl, but the Packers are 12-1 since the first Sunday in October, losing, inexplicably, only in Indianapolis in mid-November.

In money games since late November, the men from the frozen tundra have held Dallas to 17 points, Minnesota to 11, Tampa Bay to 6 and 7 in two games (the latter in an NFC divisional playoff), Carolina to 10, and five-time Super Bowl champion San Francisco to 10 (in the NFC Championship Game).

Mike Holmgren, the BYU assistant in 1984, has pulled the strings in Green Bay since 1992. His teams have had only winning seasons and have made the playoffs the past five years. Today Holmgren's Packers seek to match the rarefied glory of Lombardi's Packers.

Brett Favre, the Mississippi adolescent, is 28 and a three-time NFL most valuable player (he shared the honor with Detroit's Barry Sanders this season). Still not that far removed from Huck Finn, Favre threw 35 touchdown passes in 1997, becoming the first

scouting report

SEASON AT A GLANCE

15-3

W	38-24	Chicago
L	10-9	at Philadelphia
W	23-18	Miami
W	38-32	Minnesota
L	26-15	at Detroit
W	21-16	Tampa Bay
W	24-23	at Chicago
W	28-10	at New England
W	20-10	Detroit
W	17-7	St. Louis
L	41-38	at Indianapolis
W	45-17	Dallas
W	27-11	at Minnesota
W	17-6	at Tampa Bay
W	31-10	at Carolina
W	31-21	Buffalo

PLAYOFFS

W	21-7	Tampa Bay
W	23-10	at San Francisco

man in the history of pro football to have four consecutive seasons of 30 or more touchdown passes.

It wasn't just chance and circumstance that brought Holmgren and Favre together in Green Bay. The catalyst was general manager Ron Wolf, a man with a remarkable eye for talent. Wolf's uncanny abilities to see things that others do not have helped to build the Packers' franchise as close to a dynasty as the era of free agency can have.

Not only have the Packers had remarkable drafts in recent years, but no one has done a better job at filling needs with free agents.

It is more than good fortune that a team that had minimal talent before Wolf and Holmgren arrived (Wolf preceded Holmgren by two months) now has an offense of skill-position superstars, and a spectacular defense.

Favre has overcome his earlier career tendency to get too excited in big games, but he still makes occasional mistakes by trying to force the ball. Favre never saw a receiver he didn't think he could hit, no matter how covered the receiver may be.

Of course, it is easy to be overconfident when your receivers are Antonio Freeman and Robert Brooks, running backs Dorsey Levens and William Henderson, and tight end Mark Chmura.

Freeman and Brooks combined to catch 141 passes for 2,253 yards and 19 touchdowns.

Levens emerged as one of the NFL's most complete players in 1997, rushing for 1,435 yards and 7 touchdowns, while catching 53 passes for 5 more touchdowns.

Henderson, one of the best blocking fullbacks in the game, caught 41 passes, while Chmura added 38.

On defense, future Hall of Fame member Reggie White has slowed a step at left end. But he still is a formidable force with a unit that limited two strong playoffs opponents, Tampa Bay and San Francisco, to a combined 123 rushing yards in 45 carries. Do not expect to defeat Green Bay with a 2.7-yard average on the ground.

When healthy—and the Packers should be at full strength for the Broncos—there is no discernable weakness on defense. Gilbert Brown, the man-mountain defensive tackle, is *listed* at 345 pounds, but he is remarkably agile. The linebackers, led by Brian Williams and Bernardo Harris, are dart quick.

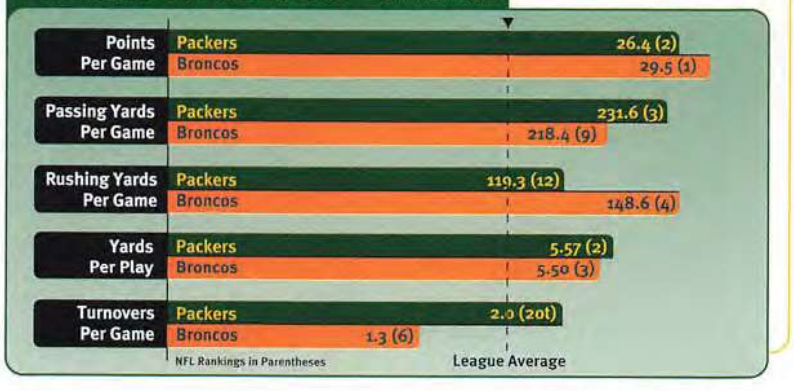
And no team has a better secondary than safeties Eugene Robinson and LeRoy Butler and cornerbacks Doug Evans and Tyrone Williams.

Only three members of the current Broncos were on the three teams that stumbled in Super Bowls XXI, XXII, and XXIV, so it might be unfair to saddle them with the mantle of history.

But consider this: These two teams last played on December 8, 1996. Favre threw 4 touchdown passes, 3 of them to Freeman. The final score was Green Bay 41, Denver 6.

DAVID DRAPKIN

Winning Is Only Thing: *Mike Holmgren is six-for-six in winning seasons; today he seeks to match Vince Lombardi's two Super Bowl wins.*



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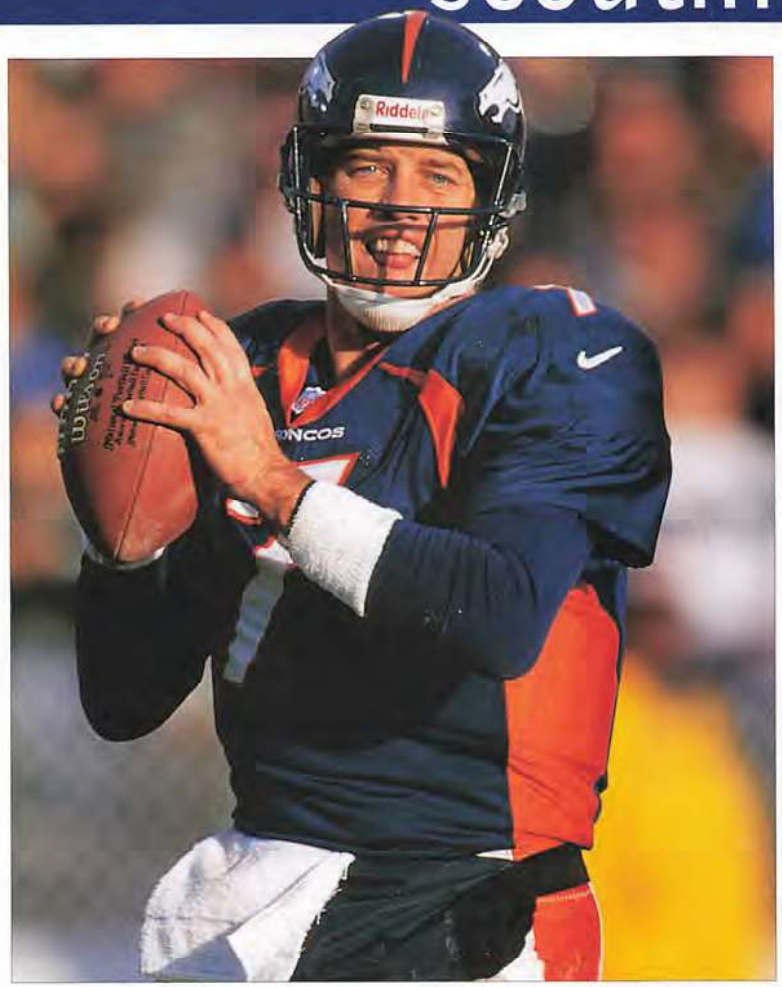


E.B. GRAPHICS

Three Strikes, Not Out Yet: *John Elway has come up empty in three prior Super Bowl bids, but he's never had offensive cohorts like these.*

Could It Be Last Roundup for Most Famous Bronco?

Tell John Elway he's the main storyline of this game, and he'll call an audible so fast your ears will buzz.

He'll say Super Bowl XXXII is about a team reaping the just rewards of effort and faith. He'll say it's about the AFC's best running back, an opportunistic defense, and a coach described by football holy man Bill Walsh as "one of the four or five best men in football."

Don't listen to the quarterback's cadence. He's trying to draw you offside.

Elway is 37 years old. He is throwing the ball as well as he ever has, but you have to figure this is his last chance at an NFL championship. These things just don't fall in your lap very often.

And in Elway's case, Super Bowl XXXII isn't just a final shot at glory for a revered quarterback (though it certainly is that). The slew-footed rifleman, by no choice of his own, now represents the six quarterbacks—Elway, Todd Blackledge, Jim Kelly, Tony Eason, Ken O'Brien, and Dan Marino—selected in the first round of the 1983 draft. That group showed up with tremendous fanfare and frightful expectations. But, while the Class of '83 produced three Hall of Fame prospects and a ledger of passing records, it has not delivered on its ultimate promise, a Super Bowl title.

What's more, all six of those young quarterbacks went to AFC teams, and their arrival almost precisely coincided with the NFC's unprecedented run of dominance. In effect, the Class of '83 has become the symbol of AFC futility. And those quarterbacks who remain active—i.e. Elway and Marino—wear the burden like a 50-pound backpack.

So here is John Elway, all toothy smile and odd gait, making like this game is no bigger for him than the other 91 players in uniform. But the rest of us can't help but see him as the perfect and poetic source of salvation for an entire conference.

And all that lies in his path is the NFL's best quarterback, a dominant defense, and a game plan so complex it rivals his own. Oh, yeah, and throw in a history of failure in football's largest game.

Elway has taken the Broncos to three previous Super Bowls—XXI, XXII, and XXIV—and Denver was beaten by progressively lopsided scores. But make no mistake, the 1997 team surrounds its quarterback with a lot more firepower.

"The offense I'm in right now is so far superior to the one I ran for ten years," Elway says. "The teams I had then and the team I have now, what we do offensively, there's no comparison."

The biggest difference is Terrell Davis, the relentless running back who carries 210 pounds as if he's hiding an extra 30 in prosthetic steel forearms. Davis, who piled up 424 rushing yards in three playoff games, has taken much of the burden from Elway, allowing the quarterback to enter an age of rebirth over the last three seasons.

scouting report

denver

SEASON AT A GLANCE

15-4

- W 19-3 Kansas City
- W 35-14 at Seattle
- W 35-14 St. Louis
- W 38-20 Cincinnati
- W 29-21 at Atlanta
- W 34-13 New England
- L 28-25 at Oakland
- W 23-20 (OT) at Buffalo
- W 30-27 Seattle
- W 34-0 Carolina
- L 24-22 at Kansas City
- W 31-3 Oakland
- W 38-28 at San Diego
- L 35-24 at Pittsburgh
- L 34-17 at San Francisco
- W 38-3 San Diego

PLAYOFFS

- W 42-17 Jacksonville
- W 14-10 at Kansas City
- W 24-21 at Pittsburgh

Those two are joined by a scrappy offensive line (at an average weight of 290 pounds, it is the NFL's lightest) and Shannon Sharpe, a tight end unlike any who played before him.

And all of the components have been masterfully blended by Mike Shanahan, who has patiently climbed to the top of his profession, directing Denver to a 36-16 record as head coach.

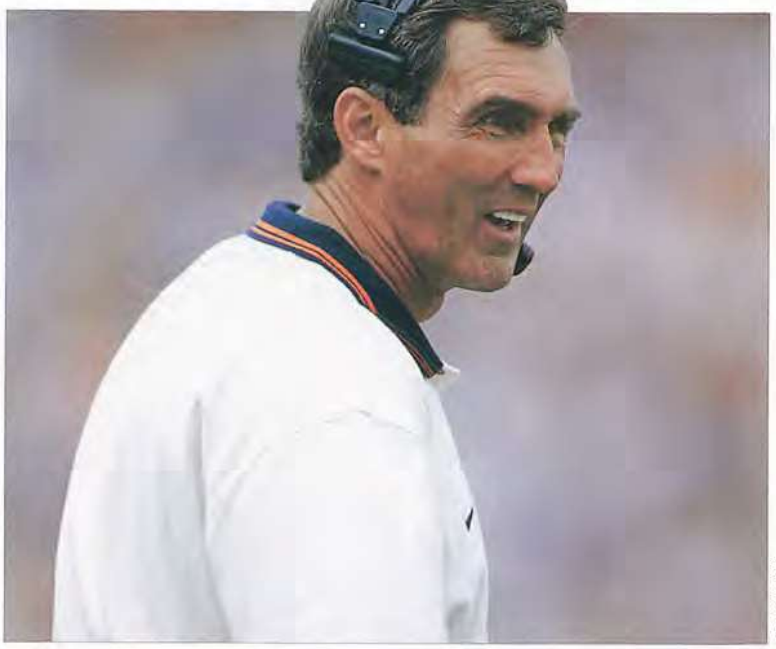
Shanahan's résumé, which includes stops in Denver, Oakland, and San Francisco, is filled with offensive brilliance. The Broncos are in awe of Shanahan's work ethic (he watches tape of every team position meeting) and his skills of deduction, and he is not known as a screamer or a giver of cold shoulders.

"He's straightforward, and he treats his players with respect," Davis says. "In return he wants you to play hard for him. What else can you ask for?"

Shanahan, like his players, knows what a Super Bowl victory would mean to Broncos fans. The Denver Broncos were to the 1980s what Minnesota was to the seventies and Buffalo to the nineties: a damn good team that couldn't make fans remember anything more than those Super Bowl pratfalls.

But the Rocky Mountains breed survivalists, and the Denver fans aren't timid about showing their optimism. They have gathered in San Diego in their styrofoam cowboy hats and orange barrels, and they're ready to set the Mountain Time Zone on fire should the Broncos beat Green Bay, becoming just the second wild-card team to win a Super Bowl.

The Broncomaniacs are quick to remind you that this is a different breed of horse. The Broncos entered 1997 with radical new uniforms and a new on-field schtick: the Mile High Salute, which the club takes so seriously it distributed handouts informing the home crowd how to execute a proper military salute. Elway is one of only three players who remain from the last Super Bowl appearance (safeties Steve Atwater and Tyrone Braxton are the others), and even Elway is a different man (and not just because preseason surgery left him with one tendon in his right shoulder, rather than the customary two).



BOB ROSATO

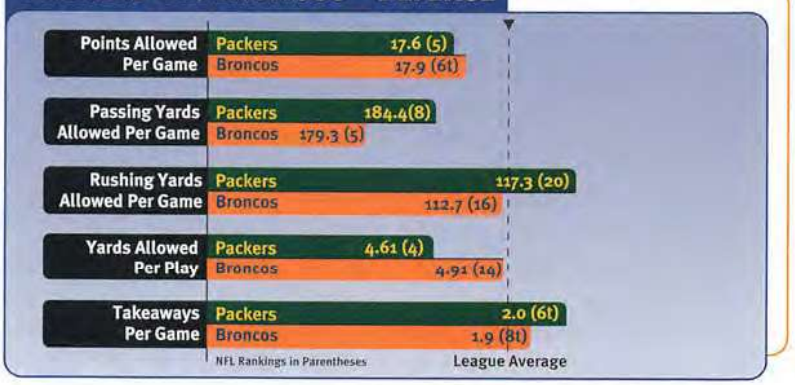
Is This Mike On?: *Mike Shanahan's work ethic and straightforward demeanor have made believers of his Broncos players.*

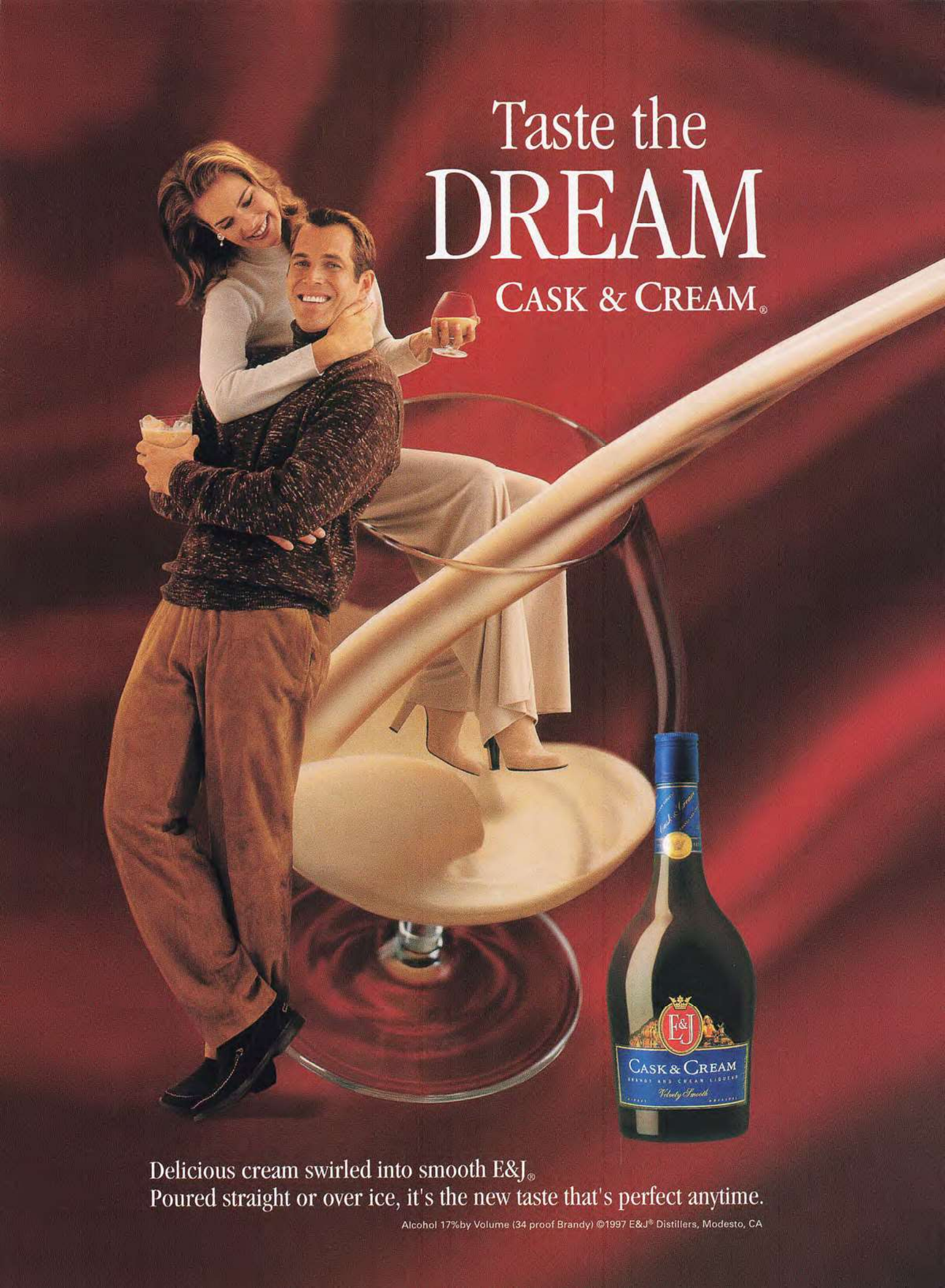
The 1997 Broncos exorcised a few demons as they marched to XXXII. First they knocked off Jacksonville, the team that had shocked them in the 1996 playoffs (when, unlike '97, Denver was the prohibitive favorite). Then they conquered Kansas City and Pittsburgh, teams that had wrested the home-field advantage away for the postseason.

Now one ghost remains. It's the Ghost of Super Bowls Past. It doesn't rattle any chains or throw plates. It sits in the back of your mind and whispers coldly about opportunities lost. It is the most haunting apparition in the business, and if the Broncos vanquish it they will bring new life to a city, a conference, and, most important, themselves.

And that would certainly be worth a nice, crisp salute.

PACKERS VS. BRONCOS • DEFENSE





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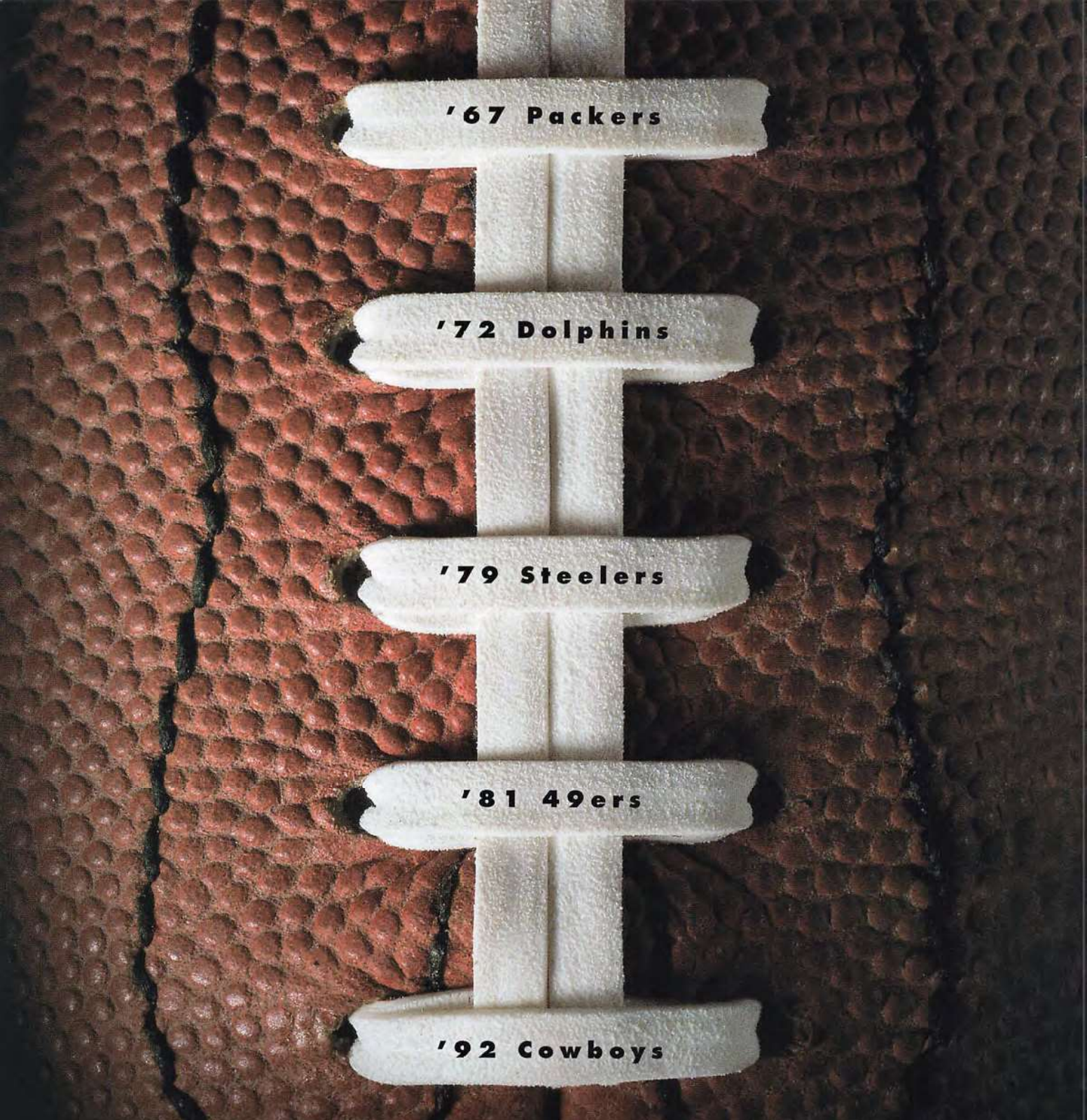

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Go-to Guy: *Antonio Freeman, Brett Favre's favorite target, caught 81 passes for 1,243 yards this season.*

Broncos Try to Solve Bewildering Mystery: How to Stop Favre?

If it helps to know your opponent, the Denver Broncos should count themselves blessed. They know a lot, maybe even more than they want to, about the Packers' quarterback.

They know Brett Favre has led the league in touchdown passes each of the last three years. They know he has won or shared NFL most-valuable-player honors in each of those seasons. They know he owns most of the passing records in Green Bay history.

What no one knows, not even his head coach, Mike Holmgren, is what Favre will do from play to play. Will he drop straight back, read the defense, and throw to the open man? Will he scramble out of the pocket, a half-step ahead of peril, and force a screaming spiral between two defenders? Will he dodge tacklers and race for the sideline, only to throw across his body to the other side of the field? Even with seven NFL seasons behind him, he is as unpredictable as a tornado.

"He ages me every day," Holmgren says. "He also gives me great joy. It's like one of my kids, really. But I'm glad he doesn't live with me."

In the days before the NFC Championship Game it was suggested that the 49ers might have a tactical advantage because head coach Steve Mariucci, once Favre's quarterback coach, would know his tendencies.

Favre's response? "I don't know what I'm going to do out there. How would he?"

One of the things that Favre is certain to do is look for wide receiver Antonio Freeman, Green Bay's leading receiver with 81 catches and its most explosive threat with 12 touchdown receptions.

Freeman is gifted at making difficult catches in traffic, and he can be a game-breaker, as he demonstrated with a 27-yard touchdown catch against the 49ers to give the Packers a 10-0 second-quarter advantage.

He is apt to draw coverage from cornerback Ray Crockett, Denver's best pass defender. But at 5 feet 10 inches, Crockett gives away three inches to Freeman. Favre will try to exploit that, especially on deep routes, with which Crockett has some difficulty.

Favre's second-favorite target, Robert Brooks, paled this season only by comparison to Freeman. His 60 catches were worth 1,010 yards and 7 touchdowns. With 4.49 speed in the 40, he always is a threat to go deep. He will be anxious to test cornerback Darrien Gordon, who

PACKERS/KEY FACTS

- Not surprisingly, as goes Brett Favre, so go the Packers. Favre, who has won 44 of his last 56 starts (including postseason), has a 4-1 touchdown-to-interception ratio (110-27) in the 44 victories and a 1-1 ratio (17-20) in the 12 losses. True to form, Favre passed for 31 touchdowns and 10 interceptions in the Packers' 13 victories in 1997 and 4 touchdowns and 6 interceptions in their three losses.
- Favre's career winning percentage of .677 (63-30) in regular-season games ranks second among active quarterbacks. First place belongs to his backup, Steve Bono (28-12, .700).
- Favre has never missed a game because of injury.

PACKERS/RECEIVING

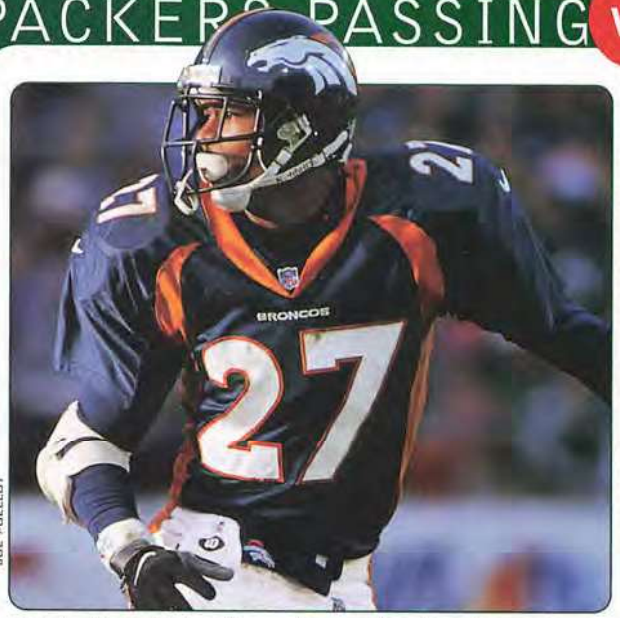
	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Freeman	81	1,243	15.3	58t	12
Brooks	60	1,010	16.8	48	7
Levens	53	370	7.0	56	5
Henderson	41	367	9.0	25	1
Chmura	38	417	11.0	32t	6
Mayes	18	290	16.1	74	0
Thomason	9	115	12.8	27	1
Beebe	2	28	14.0	23	0
T. Davis	2	28	14.0	26	1
Schroeder	2	15	7.5	8	1
Hayden	2	11	5.5	7	0
Mickens	1	2	2.0	2t	1

t-touchdown

PACKERS/PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Long	Sacked/ Yards	Rating
Favre	513	304	59.3	3,867	7.54	35	6.8	16	3.1	74	25/176	92.6
Bono	10	5	50.0	29	2.90	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	1/15	56.3

PACKERS PASSING vs. BRONCOS DEFENSE



JOE PUELLO

Safety First: *Safety Steve Atwater leads a Broncos' secondary that faces its biggest challenge of the season.*

has had some problems with speedy receivers. Pittsburgh's Yancey Thigpen slipped by him for 3 touchdown receptions in week 15.

If either Crockett or Gordon need coverage help from their safeties, Favre can be expected to turn his attention to tight end Mark Chmura. A huge target at 6-5 and 253 pounds, Chmura is an especially effective weapon near the goal line or in short-yardage situations. He averaged only 11 yards on his 38 receptions this season, but 6 of his catches went for touchdowns.

It was no accident that the Packers finished with the third-ranked passing offense in the league. But they can be slowed—if Favre can be rushed. The key for the Broncos is a relentless, if disciplined, pass rush.

BRONCOS/INTERCEPTIONS

	Int.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Braxton	4	113	28.3	43	1
Gordon	4	64	16.0	32t	1
Crockett	4	18	4.5	10	0
Atwater	2	42	21.0	22t	1
Traylor	1	62	62.0	62t	1
Mobley	1	13	13.0	13t	1
Romanowski	1	7	7.0	7	0
McKyer	1	0	0.0	0	0

t-touchdown

That burden will fall on the shoulders of Denver's front four: ends Alfred Williams and Neil Smith and tackles Maa Tanuvasa and Keith Traylor. They accounted for 27½ of the Broncos' 44 sacks this season.

A lot of eyes will be on the matchup that pits Packers right tackle Earl Dotson against the Broncos' Smith, a six-time Pro Bowl selection who has waited 10 years for his first Super Bowl experience.

Dotson has spent much of the season playing with nagging injuries. His weariness seemed to show in the NFC Championship Game when he committed four penalties for moving before the center snap when trying to brace himself to provide pass protection.

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

- Denver had 10 touchdowns on returns. Only Kansas City (11 in 1992) has more scores on returns since the 1970 merger.
- Denver's defense had 6 of those touchdown returns (5 interceptions, 1 fumble), equaling the total produced by the Broncos' defense in the previous five seasons combined (1992-96).
- The Broncos ranked fifth in pass defense, a figure made all the more impressive by the fact that they were almost always protecting leads (Denver outscored opponents 107-34 in the first quarter).
- Denver's defense was the AFC's best in the red zone (only 160 points in 35 trips) and on third downs (31.4 percent).

The Broncos do not make a habit of blitzing the quarterback, but they won't hesitate to adjust if the Packers are able to blunt their pass rush. John Mobley, a linebacker with 4.55 speed, collected 4 sacks this season, and the Broncos made good use of a safety blitz with Tyrone Braxton in the AFC Championship Game.

The problem, as always, is Favre. He is uncanny at avoiding the rush. When pressure arrives, he slips to the side, pivots, and escapes.

"People talk about keeping him in the pocket," 49ers safety Tim McDonald says, "but then they never can do it. He's going to break containment."

BRONCOS/SACKS

N. Smith	8.5	Traylor	2.0
Tanuvasa	8.5	Hasselbach	1.5
Williams	8.5	Atwater	1.0
Mobley	4.0	Lodish	1.0
Gordon	2.0	McKyer	1.0
Pryce	2.0	Braxton	0.5
Romanowski	2.0	Richie	0.5

And when he does, anything goes. Any receiver in a Green Bay uniform is fair game.

Often, the escape target is running back Dorsey Levens, better known for his 1,435 rushing yards. Levens pulled in 53 passes this season good for 370 yards.

Or the target might be fullback William Henderson, who had 41 catches for 367 yards. Or Derrick Mayes, who comes in on three-wide-receiver sets. He averaged 16.1 yards on 18 receptions this season.

The Broncos will need one of their best defensive games to slow the Green Bay passing attack. And they could use a mistake or two by Favre, whose high-strung nature is one of his few flaws.

Earlier this year, in a high-stakes game against Dallas, Favre clearly was flustered when he threw a first-half interception that was returned for a touchdown.

But then in the second half, he threw 3 touchdown passes. Denver would rather not think about that. Nor would they like to think about the NFC Championship Game, where Favre was in control from the first offensive play and never suffered a letdown in a superb performance.

WHEN GREEN BAY HAS THE BALL

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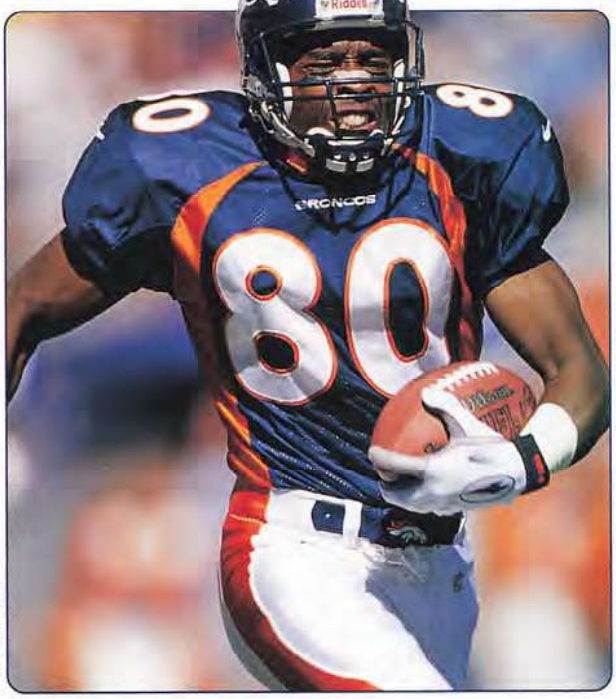


E.B. GRAPHICS

Loaded Arsenal: *Rod Smith is the Broncos' deep threat, averaging 16.9 yards per catch with 12 touchdowns.*

The Quarterback Who's Seen It All Will Need All He's Got

To many fans, John Elway *is* the Denver Broncos, period. That is debatable. But few would contest that over his brilliant 15-year career with the team, he is the heart of their passing offense.

At 37, with the biceps muscle on his passing arm only partially repaired by surgery during the preseason, Elway is throwing better than ever and was voted to his eighth Pro Bowl. Even in slow-motion replays, his passes zing like rifle shots. And he still exhibits not only an uncanny ability to feel pass rushers closing in, but the strength and mobility to elude them.

Sure, Elway is not the scrambler he once was, yet he will present the Packers with the same dilemma that plagued defenders in his three previous Super Bowl appearances: Contain him or risk getting burned.

The wily and savvy Elway has won more regular-season games (138) than any other starting quarterback in NFL history, and his 18 playoff games (including Super Bowl XXXII) are second only to the 49ers' Steve Young's 20 among active quarterbacks.

He ranks second in the NFL in all-time passing yards, adding 3,635 yards in 1997 to bring his career total to 48,669. His 27 touchdown passes this season, a career high, and the fact that he threw just 11 interceptions add further proof that Elway is improving with age

That said, Elway and the Broncos are going to need everything they've got against Green Bay's eighth-ranked pass defense, which neutralized Young and San Francisco's imposing air power in the sodden NFC Championship Game. The Packers have not allowed a touchdown pass in seven games (including playoffs).

So what, besides Elway, have the Broncos got? Start with Pro Bowl tight end Shannon Sharpe. Elway's favorite target, Sharpe led all NFL tight ends with 72 receptions for 1,107 yards and 3 touchdowns. Sharpe creates coverage problems for defenses because he is too big and strong for most safeties to cover man-for-man, and too fast for most linebackers.

However, Packers safeties LeRoy Butler and Eugene Robinson have the talent to stay with Sharpe, although they may have help on third-down situations or in the red zone, when Elway is most apt to go to him. Butler led Green Bay with 5 interceptions and is a dangerous blitzer (3 sacks in 1997) who was voted to his third

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

- John Elway, 37, is the second-oldest quarterback to start a Super Bowl. Pro Football Hall of Fame member Johnny Unitas was 45 days older than Elway when he started Super Bowl V, which Unitas's Colts won, though he left with an injury.
- Elway joins Roger Staubach, Terry Bradshaw, and Joe Montana as the only quarterbacks to start four Super Bowls.
- Elway has not had to lead many comebacks lately—the Broncos haven't blown a halftime lead since October 20, 1996.
- Elway is the most-sacked quarterback (496 times) in NFL history. Since 1995, however, the rate has slowed considerably (27.3 in the last three seasons, 34.5 in the previous 12).

BRONCOS/RECEIVING

	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Sharpe	72	1,107	15.4	68t	3
R. Smith	70	1,180	16.9	78	12
McCaffrey	45	590	13.1	35	8
Davis	42	287	6.8	25	0
Green	19	240	12.6	31	2
Carswell	12	96	8.0	24t	1
Griffith	11	55	5.0	20	0
D. Smith	4	41	10.3	17t	1
Hebron	3	36	12.0	21	0
Jeffers	3	24	8.0	10	0
Chamberlain	2	18	9.0	9	0
Loville	2	10	5.0	7	0
Lynn	1	21	21.0	21	0
Nalen	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0

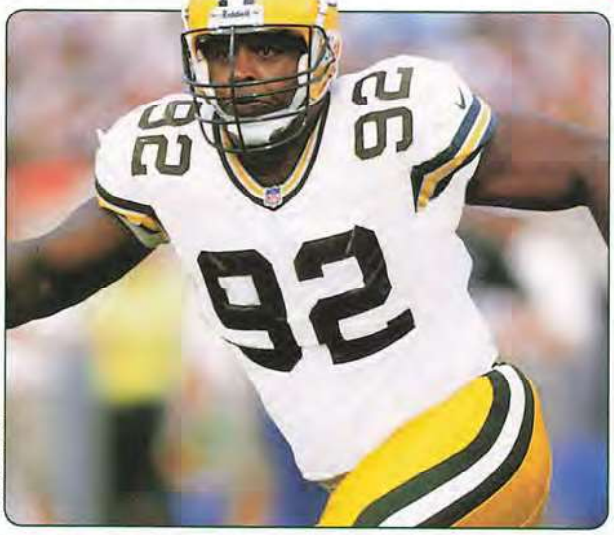
t-touchdown

BRONCOS/PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Sacked/ Long	Yards	Rating
Elway	502	280	55.8	3,635	7.24	27	5.4	11	2.2	78	34/203	87.5
Brister	9	6	66.7	48	5.33	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	0/0	79.9
Lewis	2	1	50.0	21	10.50	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	1/7	87.5

WHEN DENVER HAS THE BALL

BRONCOS PASSING VS. PACKERS DEFENSE



DAVID STLUKA

The Minister: *Reggie White had a team-high 11 sacks in 1997, increasing his NFL career record to 176½.*

Pro Bowl. Robinson was the Packers' top solo tackler (75) in 1997 and ranked second in total tackles (112), with Butler right behind in both categories (71 and 103).

PACKERS/SACKS

White	11.0	Robinson	2.5
S. Dotson	5.5	McKenzie	1.5
Wilkins	5.5	Evans	1.0
Brown	3.0	Harris	1.0
Butler	3.0	Smith	1.0
Joyner	3.0	B. Williams	1.0

If Sharpe is covered, Elway has another big target in 6-foot 5-inch wide receiver Ed McCaffrey, a tough possession receiver who scored on 8 of his 45 catches. His 1-yard touchdown catch provided the decisive points in the AFC title game. Fluid wide receiver Rod Smith, a master of the quick slant route, can take a hit and hold onto the ball. Smith led Denver with 12 touchdown catches and 1,180 yards on 70 receptions. He and Elway hooked up 9 times this season for gains of 30 or more yards.

McCaffrey and Smith will test Green Bay cornerbacks Doug Evans and Tyrone Williams. Evans, who made 3 interceptions in 1997, can cover deep and is exceptional working man-for-man. Williams is at his best when he is jamming receivers at the line. Rookie Darren Sharper also comes in at both cornerback and safety and has made big plays every time he's gotten extended playing time. Outside linebackers Brian Williams, one of the fastest players at his position in the NFL, and Seth Joyner also can cover man-for-man.

Having Terrell Davis in the backfield helps Denver's passing game immeasurably. Not only does Davis add balance to the Broncos' offensive attack and makes defenders take play-action fakes seriously, he also is a competent receiver out of the backfield. So is fullback Howard Griffith, as he showed on his one-handed catch and run for a 15-yard touchdown against Pittsburgh in the AFC Championship Game.

PACKERS/KEY FACTS

- The Packers limited opposing quarterbacks to a passer rating of 59.0 in 1997, lowest in the NFL.
- Green Bay has surrendered only 1 passing touchdown in the last 42 quarters (including postseason).
- The Packers limited opponents to 4.9 yards per pass play, second best in the NFL.
- Defensive end Reggie White, already the NFL leader with 176½ career sacks in regular-season games, also is tied with Buffalo's Bruce Smith (12) for the all-time postseason lead.
- Free safety Eugene Robinson leads active players with 49 interceptions in his 13 seasons.

Both will be called upon to help protect Elway from Green Bay's left-side pass rush featuring 12-time Pro Bowl defensive end Reggie White and defensive tackle Santana Dotson. White, the NFL's all-time regular-season sack leader (176½) added 11 sacks in 1997 to pace the Packers for the fourth time in his five seasons in Green Bay. Look for him to come after Elway (or his experienced backup, Bubby Brister), especially on third-and-long situations when Elway often works out of the Shotgun. Dotson contributed 5 sacks, but is most effective when nose tackle Gilbert Brown is in the game.

Denver's offensive line is the lightest in the NFL, but it includes excellent pass blockers, such as right guard Brian Habib and center Tom Nalen, who are good at picking up the blitz. They will need to be particularly agile, physically and mentally, when faced with Green Bay defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur's diabolical schemes that involve variations on multiple blitzers, nine players near the line of scrimmage with both safeties deep, and six or seven defensive backs.

You can be certain, however, that Shurmur constantly has reminded his defense that Denver can strike quickly (as evidenced by the Broncos' 2 touchdowns in two minutes against the Steelers two weeks ago), and that Elway never can be counted out of any game as long the clock still is running; Elway has made 44 fourth-quarter game-saving drives in his career–more than any other quarterback in the history of the NFL.

PACKERS/INTERCEPTIONS

	Int.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Butler	5	4	0.8	2	0
Prior	4	72	18.0	49	0
Evans	3	33	11.0	27	0
Sharper	2	70	35.0	50t	2
B. Williams	2	30	15.0	25	0
Wilkins	1	77	77.0	77t	1
Robinson	1	26	26.0	26	0
Mullen	1	17	17.0	17	0
Harris	1	0	0.0	0	0
T. Williams	1	0	0.0	0	0

t-touchdown

WHEN DENVER HAS THE BALL

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ROBERT SKEOCH

Run to Daylight: *Dorsey Levens had a breakthrough season in 1997, rushing for 1,435 yards.*

Levens's Punishing Running Poses Big Challenge for Denver

One year ago, running back Dorsey Levens was relatively unknown outside Green Bay until he burst onto the scene with a memorable performance in the NFC Championship Game.

Today, he is one of the key players as the Packers try to win back-to-back Super Bowls.

Against Carolina in last season's NFC title game, Levens gained 205 yards from scrimmage and caught a touchdown pass to pace the Packers' 30-13 victory.

Still, he was slated to share time with Edgar Bennett in 1997. But when Bennett, who rushed for 899 yards in 1996, went down with a torn Achilles tendon in the preseason, Levens stepped in and had a season worthy of all the great runners in Green Bay's storied history.

The fourth-year pro from Georgia Tech rushed for 1,435 yards in 1997, second in club history only to Pro Football Hall of Fame member Jim Taylor's 1,474 yards in 1962. He had 1,805 yards from scrimmage, scored 12 touchdowns, and rushed for a club-record 190 yards in a victory over Dallas in week 13. He set another club record with 112 yards rushing against Tampa Bay in an NFC Divisional Playoff Game, then broke it with 114 yards against the 49ers in the NFC Championship Game one week later.

The Packers have relied on Levens to maintain perhaps the NFL's best-balanced offense. Statistically, Green Bay rated just twelfth in the league in rushing offense at 119.3 yards per game (mainly because after Levens, there is little depth: quarterback Brett Favre was the club's second-leading rusher with 187 yards, and the other running backs combined for only 261 rushing yards).

But Levens's breakthrough season is a key reason opponents have not been able to go after Favre with abandon. Levens is not a breakaway runner, but he is tough and physical, and he tends to get better as the game goes on. Against Tampa Bay, he had 88 of his 112 yards rushing after halftime. Against San Francisco, 71 of his 114 yards came in the third and fourth quarters.

That does not bode well for Denver's undersized defense, which is at its best when it can rely on its speed and athleticism. In the Packers, however, the Broncos face a physical running attack. Leading the way for Levens is William Henderson, a seldom-used runner (he carried the ball just 31 times all season for 113 yards), but one of the best blocking fullbacks in the game.

Up front, there are no Pro Bowl players among the Packers' offensive linemen. Instead, there is a gritty, competitive quintet. The group is led by center Frank Winters, an 11-year veteran who signed with the Packers as a free agent in 1992 and has been a mainstay since. The guards are Aaron Taylor and Adam Timmerman, and the tackles are Ross Verba and Earl Dotson. Verba is a rookie first-round draft pick who supplanted last season's first-round choice, John Michels, at left tackle.

PACKERS/KEY FACTS

- Dorsey Levens's 1,435 rushing yards in 1997 are surpassed in Packer annals only by Pro Football Hall of Fame member Jim Taylor, who gained 1,474 yards in 1962. Taylor capped that year by leading Green Bay to its second straight title.
- With Edgar Bennett sidelined by injury, Levens carried the entire load, setting a club record with 329 attempts and supplying 75 percent of the team's rushing yards.
- Levens did break Taylor's record for most rushing yards in a game (190, against Dallas). Taylor had gained 186 in 1961.
- Green Bay has the most championships (12) and the best postseason winning percentage (22-8, .733) in NFL history.

PACKERS/RUSHING

	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Levens	329	1,435	4.4	52t	7
Favre	58	187	3.2	16	1
Hayden	32	148	4.6	21	1
Henderson	31	113	3.6	15	0
Brooks	2	19	9.5	15	0
Freeman	1	14	14.0	14	0
Bono	3	-3	-1.0	-1	0
Pederson	3	-4	-1.3	-1	0

t-touchdown

PACKERS RUSHING vs. BRONCOS DEFENSE

PETER BROUILLET

Improving on the Run: *Keith Traylor (94) and the Broncos' rush defense got better as the season wore on.*

Tight end Mark Chmura, a two-time Pro Bowl selection for his ability to catch passes, has improved considerably as a blocker.

Their size advantage over Denver's defense is critical to the Packers' success on the ground. Green Bay's offensive linemen average 303 pounds. The Broncos' defensive line goes 276.

The biggest name on Denver's defensive front is six-time Pro Bowl defensive end Neil Smith, a noted pass rusher but an underrated run stopper as well. On the other side is Alfred Williams, another excellent pass rusher whose size (263 pounds) often puts him at a disadvantage in head-to-head matchups against offensive linemen who outweigh him 40 pounds or more. But Williams has the quickness to slip blocks and make tackles in pursuit.

The tackles are Maa Tanuvasa and Keith Traylor, the latter being perhaps the strongest of Denver's players up front. The Broncos believed Traylor had the potential to be an impact player when they signed him from division-rival Kansas City prior to the season. Traylor, who began his career as a linebacker for the Broncos in 1991 and who also briefly played with Green Bay in 1993 before not playing at all in 1994, led Denver's defensive linemen with 51 tackles. Tanuvasa is a steadily improving fourth-year player from Hawaii who broke into the starting lineup for the first time this season and recorded 21 tackles.

BRONCOS/TACKLES

	Solo	Assists	Total
Mobley, LB	115	49	164
Romanowski, LB	75	42	117
Braxton, S	74	16	90
Crockett, CB	69	14	83
Atwater, S	61	22	83
Aldridge, LB	55	25	80
Gordon, CB	50	12	62
Traylor, DT	39	12	51
Williams, DE	39	9	48
N. Smith, DE	38	8	46
Pryce, DT	20	8	28
Hasselbach, DE	18	5	23
Tanuvasa, DT	21	0	21
McKyer, CB	12	5	17
Johnson, CB	16	1	17

Unofficial; compiled by the Broncos

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

- In the Broncos' losses in Super Bowls XXI, XXII, and XXIV, run defense was their Achilles heel. The same could be true for the 1997 Broncos, who ranked a mediocre sixteenth overall (112.7 yards per game) but surrendered a league-worst 4.7 yards per carry.
- The lingering image of Denver's most recent Super Bowl trips is of an undersized defensive line being plowed under by bigger NFC teams. These Broncos, though not very big, will be harder to push around. Denver's line averages 276 pounds per man, compared to the 257-pound average of the Broncos' defensive line in their Super Bowl XXII loss to Washington.

The linebackers are the heart of the Broncos' defense. Outside linebacker John Mobley led the team with 164 tackles (nearly 3 per game more than runner-up Bill Romanowski) and 3 forced fumbles. Romanowski, the other outside linebacker, had 117 stops and brings Super Bowl experience to the Broncos (he played in games XXIII and XXIV while with San Francisco). Middle linebacker Allen Aldridge had 80 tackles during the regular season.

In the secondary, Steve Atwater and Tyrone Braxton are a pair of hard-hitting safeties who play the run well. Braxton led the defensive backfield with 90 tackles and recovered 3 fumbles.

The Broncos finished fifth in the NFL in 1997 in total defense, but ranked just sixteenth in rushing defense after allowing 112.7 yards per game.

Still, that figure is much better than the whopping 136 yards per game they allowed on the ground over the first half of the season, a figure compiled even while Denver was building a 7-1 record. More alarming is the league-high 4.7 yards per carry that Broncos' opponents amassed.

In the postseason, Denver stacked eight men at or near the line in its divisional playoff against Kansas City and held the Chiefs to 77 rushing yards.

That option was limited against Pittsburgh in the AFC title game because of the double-threat of Steelers quarterback Kordell Stewart, and the Broncos were not as successful. Jerome Bettis rushed for 105 yards, Stewart had a 33-yard touchdown dash, and Pittsburgh amassed 161 yards on the ground.

In Favre, Denver does not face the running threat it did in Stewart. Then again, because of Favre, the Broncos cannot afford to overplay the run and face the possibility of the big play through the air.

WHEN GREEN BAY HAS THE BALL

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DEE WELSCH

Broncos' Piston Drive: *Terrell Davis, in his third NFL season, already is one of the league's elite runners.*

Broncos Catch Balance on Offense With Davis Carrying Ball

When Mike Shanahan took over as Denver's head coach in 1995, the Broncos were mainly a one-dimensional team. For 12 seasons, Pro Bowl quarterback John Elway steadily had climbed the NFL's passing charts, while Denver had only three running backs (Sammy Winder in 1984, Bobby Humphrey in 1989-1990, and Gaston Green in 1991) rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season.

It didn't look like much would change with the arrival of Shanahan, a disciple of the West Coast offense who never shied from putting the ball in the air as an assistant for Denver (1984-87, 1989-1991) and San Francisco (1992-94).

But to everyone's surprise Denver did change its ways in 1995, largely because of running back Terrell Davis, an unheralded sixth-round draft choice from the University of Georgia. Davis became Denver's starting running back in his first game as a rookie. Since that time, the Broncos have gained more rushing yards (6,735) than any other team in the NFL.

In 1997, Denver finished fourth in the league by averaging 148.6 rushing yards per game. The Broncos' average of 4.57 yards per carry was second best in the NFL.

Davis has gained more than 1,000 rushing yards in each of his three NFL seasons, including a club-record 1,750 this season, tops in the AFC. His 15 rushing touchdowns, which tied for the league lead, also set a club record.

Stopping Davis will be a key if the Packers are to defend their NFL title. He accounted for 74 percent of Denver's total rushing yards and 71 percent of the team's total rushing attempts.

But stopping Davis is easier said than done. He has been on a tear in the playoffs, and the San Diego native will be playing in Super Bowl XXXII in the same stadium where he played his high school championship game.

In the Broncos' three playoff games, Davis has averaged 141 rushing yards per game. Against the Jaguars in a wild-card game, he rushed for a club-postseason-record 184 yards and 2 touchdowns.

The Kansas City Chiefs had not allowed a rushing touchdown for 42 quarters at home until Davis ran for 2 scores and 101 yards in a divisional playoff. And in the AFC Championship Game against Pittsburgh, which had the league's best rushing defense in 1997, Davis collected 139 yards and 1 touchdown.

One of the reasons Davis is so difficult to defend is his ability to run inside or outside with equal ease. If the Broncos struggle running against the interior of Green Bay's defensive line, they can send Davis off tackle or around the corners on pitch plays.

Davis is most effective as a cutback runner on plays that stretch the defense. He has been compared to Detroit's Barry Sanders in his ability to burst through holes

BRONCOS/RUSHING

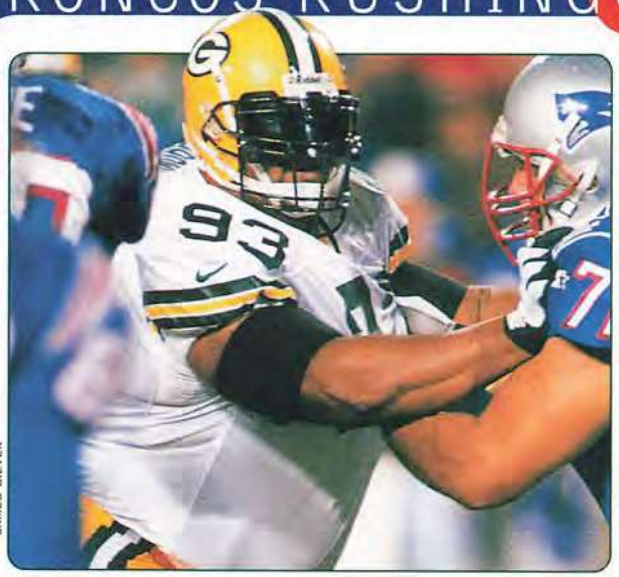
	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Davis	369	1,750	4.7	50t	15
Hebron	49	222	4.5	46	1
Elway	50	218	4.4	23	1
Loville	25	124	5.0	17	1
Griffith	9	34	3.8	9	0
R. Smith	5	16	3.2	21	0
D. Smith	4	10	2.5	11	0
Brister	4	2	0.5	2	0
Lewis	5	2	0.4	5	0

t-touchdown

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

- The good news: The Broncos' 1997 offensive line averages 290 pounds, compared to 264 pounds per man for the line that started Super Bowl XXII. The bad news: They still have the smallest offensive line in the NFL.
- Since Mike Shanahan became coach in 1995, the Broncos have the most rushing yards (6,735) in the NFL. They also have posted the three best rushing averages in club history, 4.50 in 1995 and 1996, and 4.57 (second best in the NFL) in 1997.
- Terrell Davis rushed for 4,405 yards in his first three seasons. Only Eric Dickerson (5,147) and Pro Football Hall of Fame member Earl Campbell (5,081) gained more.

BRONCOS RUSHING vs. PACKERS DEFENSE



JAMES BIEVER

Big Man in the Middle: *Gilbert Brown, a 345-pound defensive tackle, is the Packers' immovable object.*

and into the open field. Once Davis gets past the line of scrimmage, he is a threat to break long runs.

Davis does the lion's share of Denver's work on the ground. Vaughn Hebron was second on the team with 49 carries for 222 yards, and Elway was third with 218 yards.

Fullback Howard Griffith, who had only 9 carries for 34 yards, was signed as a free agent from the Carolina Panthers in the offseason to serve as Davis's lead blocker. He has done a brilliant job.

The Broncos' offensive line is undersized—it averages only 290 pounds, smallest in the NFL—but center Tom Nalen was selected to the Pro Bowl and a pair of former Pro Bowl players, left guard Mark Schlereth and left tackle Gary Zimmerman, continue to perform at a high level when they're healthy.

PACKERS/TACKLES

	Solo	Assists	Total
Harris, LB	65	48	113
Robinson, S	75	37	112
Butler, S	71	32	103
B. Williams, LB	62	38	100
Evans, CB	66	10	76
S. Dotson, DT	38	33	71
T. Williams, CB	49	17	66
Wilkins, DE	29	21	50
White, DE	31	14	45
Joyner, LB	25	9	34
Kuberski, DT	20	9	29
Simmons, LB*	18	9	27
Brown, DT	16	11	27
Mullen, CB-S	23	2	25
Prior, S	16	9	25

*no longer with team
Unofficial; compiled by the Packers

Schlereth especially is important. After the first 11 games of the 1997 season, Davis was on pace to rush for more than 2,000 yards, and Schlereth had started every game. Schlereth missed the final five games of the regular season after undergoing back surgery, and Davis's pace slowed. Schlereth was back in the starting lineup for the playoffs, and Davis's totals have returned to early-season form.

PACKERS/KEY FACTS

- Green Bay's rushing defense, which allowed 88.6 yards to rank fourth in the league in 1996, fell to twentieth in 1997 (117.3 per game). No team has been ranked that low against the run and still won the Super Bowl since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970. The 1981 49ers allowed more yards per game (119.9) but ranked twelfth.
- The Packers surrendered an average of 301.7 total yards per game in 1997. But in their last seven games (including two playoff victories), they limited opponents to 234.9 yards per game. Green Bay's defensive turnaround followed a loss to Indianapolis in which the unit allowed 467 yards.

Anchoring the Packers' rush defense is 6-foot 2-inch, 345-pound nose tackle Gilbert Brown, who is regarded by many as the NFL's best run defender. In Green Bay's Super Bowl season last year, Brown played every game, and the Packers finished fourth in the league in rushing defense.

This season, Brown missed four complete games and parts of others with a variety of injuries. With his availability constantly in question, Green Bay's run defense dropped to twentieth against the run in the NFL.

In the playoffs, Brown has been healthy, and the Packers have returned to form. They held Tampa Bay to 90 yards on the ground in a divisional playoff game. In the NFC Championship Game, San Francisco managed only 33 rushing yards.

Green Bay's defensive line averages 307 pounds and has played well in big games. Tackle Santana Dotson was sixth on the Packers with 71 tackles, and end Reggie White, who is in his thirteenth NFL season, still plays tough at the point of attack on running plays. Defensive end Gabe Wilkins had 50 tackles.

The real strength of Green Bay's run defense is its safeties, Eugene Robinson and LeRoy Butler. Defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur will send each of the hard-nosed defenders on run blitzes to help his line and linebackers. Robinson was second on the team with 112 tackles, and Butler was third with 103.

The linebacking corps is young, but talented. In his first season as a starter, Bernardo Harris led the Packers with 113 tackles. Right outside linebacker Brian Williams was fourth on the team with 100 tackles and is excellent in pursuit.

Green Bay's defense is very fast and moves well from sideline to sideline. If Denver can run directly at the Packers and break past the line of scrimmage, there should be open space in which to run.

In the fifth round of the 1995 NFL draft, Green Bay took Citadel running back Travis Jervey. The Broncos selected Davis in the next round. Green Bay fans hope the Packers' decision to pass on Davis won't come back to haunt them.

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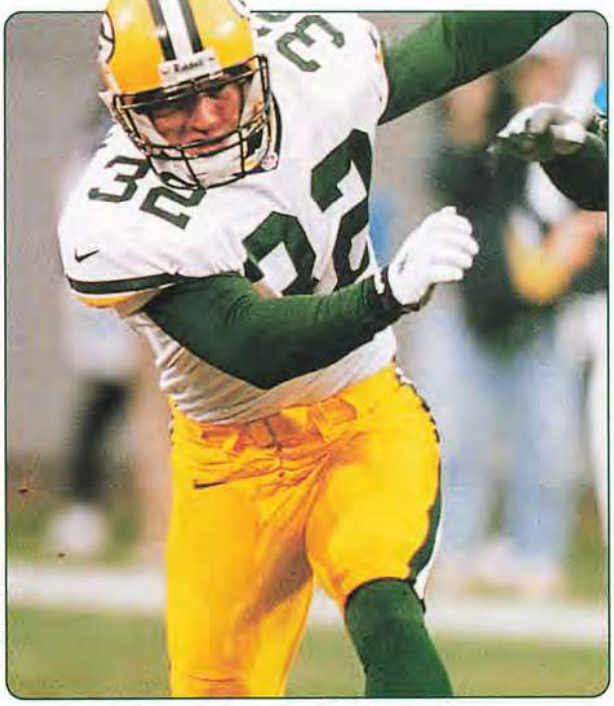


JAMES BIEVER

Travis Means Trouble: *Travis Jervey is a disruptive force on the Packers' kick-coverage units.*

Zealous Packers Special Teams Give Opponents Problems

A former coach once said of a certain player, "He either belongs in a mental institution or on special teams." This isn't to imply special teams players are mentally unstable, but after watching the Packers kick-coverage units, you will understand.

Green Bay's kickoff- and punt-coverage teams are made up of aggressive, hard-hitting players who allowed an average of only 20.5 yards per kickoff return. Led by running back Travis Jervey, linebacker Lamont Hollinquest, safety Mike Prior, running back Chris Darkins, and linebacker Keith McKenzie, this group excels at pinning the opposition. The kickoff unit ranked third in the league in the starting point of opponents' drive (23-yard line).

The Broncos likely will direct their returns away from Jervey, who is responsible for breaking up the wedge. Despite having only 10 tackles, Jervey was voted to the Pro Bowl as the special-teams player. He often is double- and triple-teamed, which enables his teammates, such as Hollinquest (16 tackles), Prior (14), Darkins (13), and McKenzie (12), to make plays.

PACKERS/KEY FACTS

- Did the Packers miss Super Bowl XXXI MVP Desmond Howard in 1997? Yes and no. While their punt-return average fell from a league-high 15.1 yards in 1996 to 9.2 in 1997, their kickoff-return average actually rose to 22.8 (from 22.1). Neither unit, however, produced a touchdown (Howard had 5 scores in 1996, including postseason). In the 1997 playoffs, the Packers turned to Antonio Freeman (career 22.9-yard average) on kickoff returns and Robert Brooks (career 8.8-yard average) on punt returns.
- Green Bay limited opponents to 8.0 yards on punt returns (sixth best) and 20.5 yards on kickoff returns (third best).

Kicker Ryan Longwell took over kickoff duties from punter Craig Hentrich this season. Throughout the regular season, the Broncos' offense benefited from short kickoffs, so Longwell will attempt to kick to the end zone. He connected on 24 of 30 field-goal attempts in the regular season and 5 of 6 in the postseason.

Hentrich is a versatile punter with a strong leg, but he has trouble putting the necessary touch on the ball to place it inside the 20-yard line. The Packers ranked fifth in the league in gross punting average (45.0), but they finished fourteenth in net punting average (36.0) because of the lack of hang time on Hentrich's punts. This could prove costly considering Denver punt returner Darrien Gordon is one of the league's best.

Dissatisfaction with the production of return units led coach Mike Holmgren to insert starting wide receivers Antonio Freeman and Robert Brooks as the kickoff and punt returner, respectively. Freeman, who returned both punts and kickoffs as a rookie in 1995, has superb balance and can accelerate in the open field, while Brooks, who hadn't returned a punt since 1994, is a fearless returner who makes defenders miss.

PACKERS/SPECIAL TEAMS

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	In 20	TB	Long	Blocked	Net Avg.
Hentrich	75	3,378	45.0	26	21	65	0	36.0

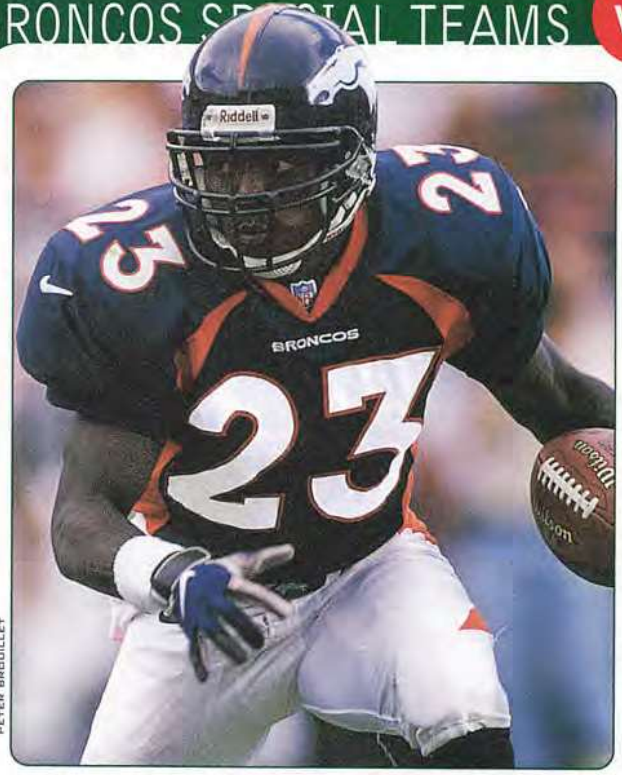
Punt Returns	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Schroeder	33	8	342	10.4	46	0
Mayes	14	3	141	10.1	26	0
Sharper	7	3	32	4.6	23	0
Preston	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Prior	1	3	0	0.0	0	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Schroeder	24	562	23.4	40	0
Preston	7	211	30.1	43	0
Beebe	6	134	22.3	39	0
Hayden	6	141	23.5	35	0
Darkins	4	68	17.0	20	0
Mickens	1	0	0.0	0	0
Sharper	1	3	3.0	3	0

Kicking	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	FG/Att.	PAT/Att.	Pts
Longwell	4/4	7/8	10/13	2/4	1/1	24/30	48/48	120

WHAT GREEN BAY NEEDS TO DO

BRONCOS SPECIAL TEAMS VS. PACKERS SPECIAL TEAMS



PETER BROUILLET

Darrien (Flash) Gordon: *One of only eight players in NFL history to return at least 3 punts for scores in a season.*

Gordon Makes Denver's Special Teams Dangerous

Darrien Gordon, the top punt returner in NFL history, could have the same impact in Super Bowl XXXII that Desmond Howard had when he earned Super Bowl XXXI MVP honors for the Green Bay Packers. Gordon, who returned punts in his three previous seasons with San Diego before joining the Broncos this year, has averaged 13.6 yards per return in his career.

In 1997, Gordon finished second in the AFC with a 13.6-yard punt-return average and returned 3 punts for touchdowns. He thrilled Denver fans when he recorded 2 punt returns for touchdowns in the first quarter of the Broncos' week 11 victory against Carolina, after already having established a franchise record with a 94-yard touchdown against St. Louis in week 3; it was the longest in the NFL in 1997.

Reserve running back Vaughn Hebron is the Broncos' primary kickoff return man. He finished thirteenth in the NFL with a 23.5-yard return average; the longest runback of his 112 career returns is 59 yards.

Defensively, the Broncos' punt-return unit ranked twelfth in the NFL, permitting 9.0 yards per return.

BRONCOS/KEY FACTS

- No Broncos player has returned a kickoff for a touchdown since September 24, 1972.
- The Broncos also had a 10-year drought of punt returns for a touchdown until Darrien Gordon snapped that in 1997. Gordon, who started at cornerback for San Diego in Super Bowl XXIX, had 3 punt returns for scores and finished second in the NFL with 13.6-yard average.
- The Broncos have not blocked a field-goal attempt since 1995 or a punt since 1993.
- The Broncos' kickoff-coverage unit ranked fourth in the NFL, allowing just 20.5 yards per return.

Punter Tom Rouen, who struggled with 3 punts of less than 30 yards in the AFC Championship Game, gets excellent hang time—his 38.1-yard net average ranked fourth in the NFL.

The Broncos, however, were burned for an 87-yard punt return for a touchdown by San Diego's Eric Metcalf in week 15, and had a punt blocked by Jacksonville in the playoffs.

Kicker Jason Elam converted 26 of 36 field-goal attempts in 1997, but missed 3 attempts inside 40 yards, and was just 6 of 13 beyond that distance. Elam also had 2 field-goal attempts blocked. However, Elam has made 14 field goals from 50 yards or more in his five-year career, including a 56-yard effort in 1995.

One caveat: Elam's long kicks, along with Rouen's punts, have been aided half of the time by the rarefied air of Denver. Neither may have the same distance at sea-level Qualcomm Stadium.

The fact that Denver's thin air helps the ball travel farther makes it even more disturbing for the Broncos that Elam's average kickoff traveled to just the 4-yard line. The Broncos ranked ninth by permitting opponents to begin at their 24-yard line. Randy Hilliard led the special teams in tackles, and Darrius Johnson finished second in tackles and forced 2 fumbles.

BRONCOS/SPECIAL TEAMS

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	In 20	TB	Long	Blocked	Net Avg.
Rouen	60	2,598	43.3	22	4	57	0	38.1

Punt Returns	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Gordon	40	22	543	13.6	94t	3
R. Smith	1	0	12	12.0	12	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Hebron	43	1,009	23.5	46	0
Loville	5	136	27.2	61	0
Burns	4	45	11.3	18	0
Chamberlain	1	13	13.0	13	0
D. Smith	1	0	0.0	0	0

Kicking	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	FG/Att.	PAT/Att.	Pts
Elam	0/0	10/11	10/12	3/8	3/5	26/36	46/46	124

t-touchdown

WHAT DENVER NEEDS TO DO

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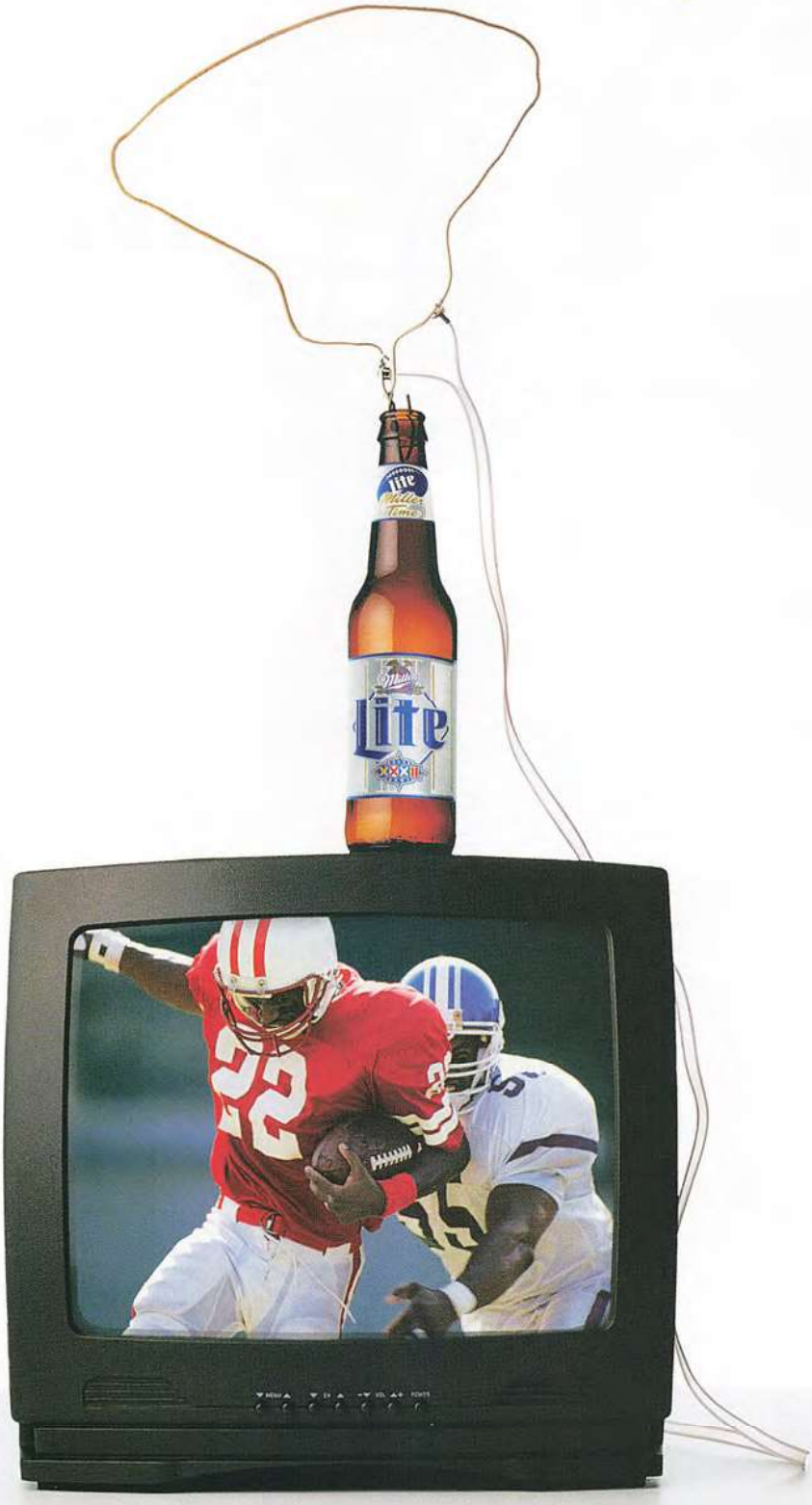

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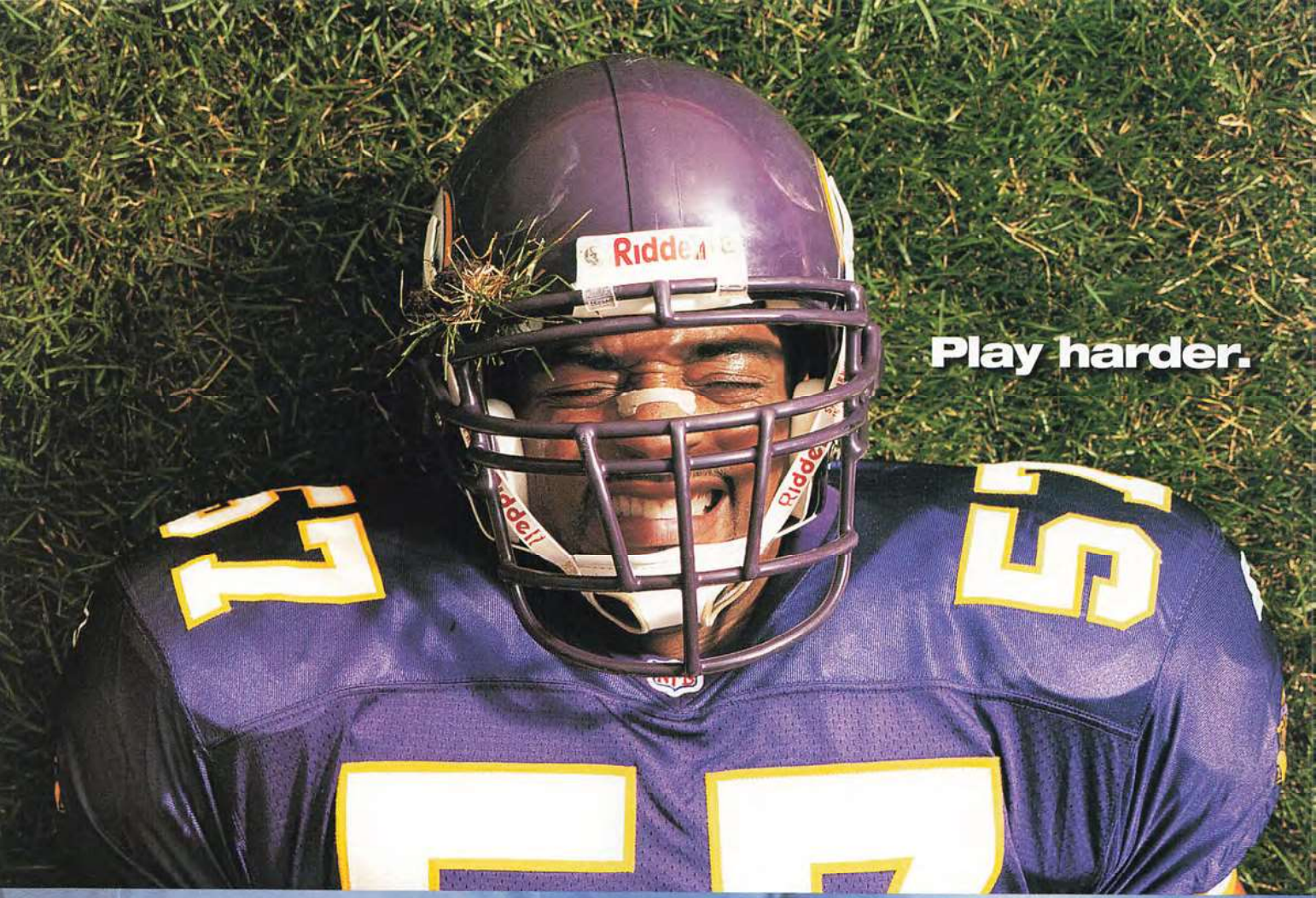

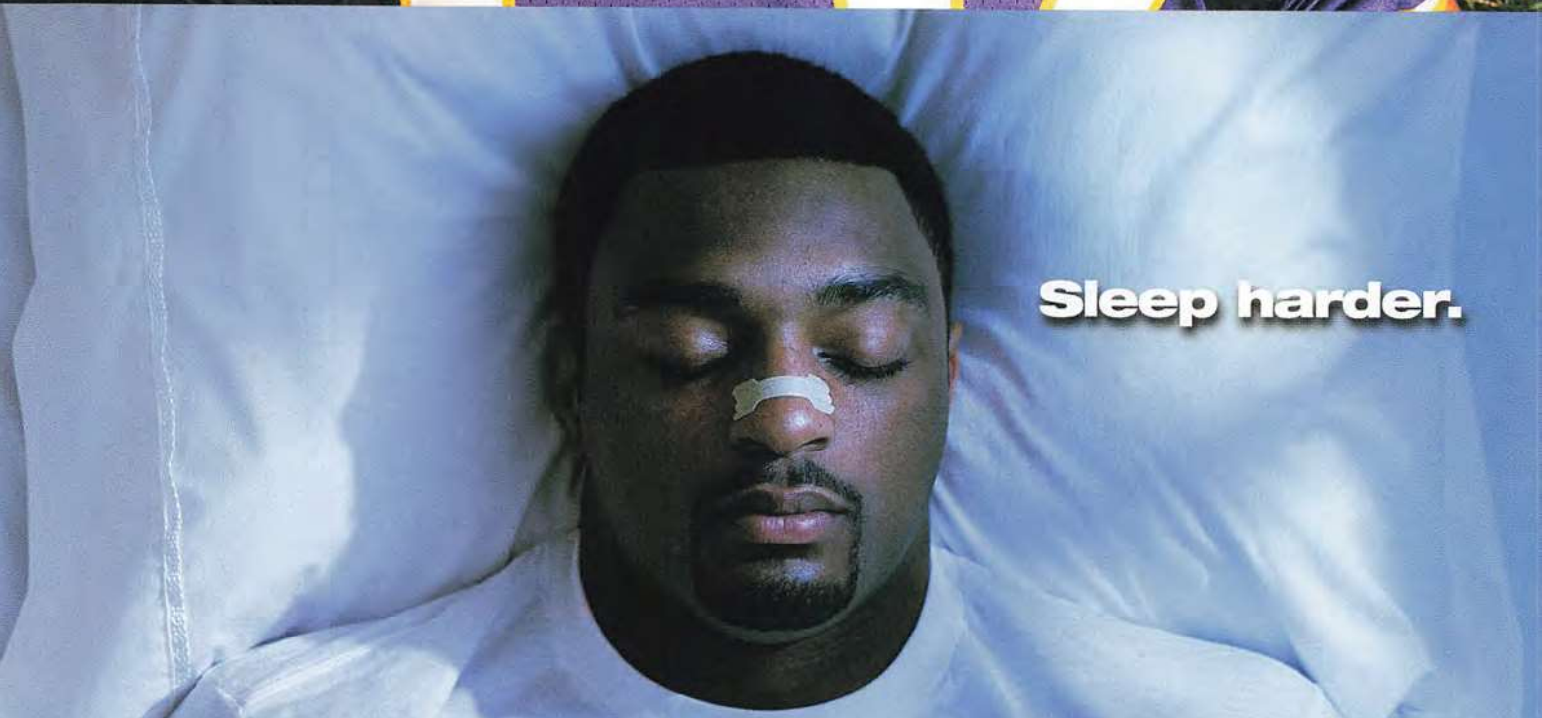

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COACHING STAFF

Head Coach,
Mike Holmgren

Pro Career: Became Packers' eleventh head coach on January 11, 1992. Since that time, he has directed Green Bay to its first NFL championship in 29 years, six consecutive winning seasons, five straight playoff berths for the first time in club history, three NFC Central titles (the first since 1972), and three appearances in the NFC Championship Game. The 1997 Packers won 13 regular-season games, matching the 1996 total when Holmgren brought the Packers their league-high twelfth NFL championship with a 35-21 victory over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI. His first three Packers teams each went 9-7 before going 11-5 in 1995. Holmgren was offensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers under George Seifert (1989-1991) after spending three previous seasons (1986-88) as quarterbacks coach under Bill Walsh. During his six-year tenure with San Francisco, the 49ers won five consecutive NFC West championships (1986-1990) and back-to-back Super Bowls (XXIII and XXIV). Career record: 73-35.

Background: Quarterback at Southern California (1966-69) and was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the eighth round of the 1970 NFL draft. He served as an assistant coach at San Francisco State (1981) and Brigham Young (1982-85) before his tenure with the 49ers. Earned his bachelor of science degree in business finance at Southern California (1970).

Personal: Born June 15, 1948, in San Francisco. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Green Bay and have four daughters—Calla, Jenny, Emily, and Gretchen.

ASSISTANT COACHES

Larry Brooks, defensive line; born June 10, 1950, Prince George, Virginia, lives in De Pere, Wisconsin. Defensive lineman Virginia State 1968-1971. Pro defensive tackle Los Angeles Rams 1972-1982. College coach: Virginia State 1992-93. Pro coach: Los Angeles Rams 1983-1990, joined Packers in 1994.

Nolan Cromwell, special teams; born January 30, 1955, Smith Center, Kansas, lives in Green Bay. Quarterback-safety Kansas 1973-76. Pro defensive back Los Angeles Rams 1977-1987. Pro coach: Los Angeles Rams 1991, joined Packers in 1992.

Gil Haskell, wide receivers; born September 24, 1943, San Francisco, lives in Green Bay. Defensive back San Francisco State 1961, 1963-65. No pro playing experience. College coach: Southern California 1978-1982. Pro coach: Los Angeles Rams 1983-1991, joined Packers in 1992.

Johnny Holland, defensive assistant-quality control; born March 11, 1965, Hempstead, Texas, lives in Green Bay. Linebacker Texas A&M 1983-86. Pro linebacker Green Bay Packers 1987-1993. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1995.

Kent Johnston, strength and conditioning; born February 21, 1956, Mexia, Texas, lives in Green Bay. Defensive back Stephen F. Austin 1974-77. No pro playing experience. College coach: Northwestern State (Louisiana) 1979, Northeast Louisiana 1980-81, Alabama 1983-86. Pro coach: Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1987-1991, joined Packers in 1992.

Sherman Lewis, offensive coordinator; born June 29, 1942, Louisville, Kentucky, lives in Green Bay. Running back Michigan State 1961-63. Pro running back Toronto Argonauts (CFL) 1964-65, New York Jets 1966. College coach: Michigan State 1969-82. Pro coach: San Francisco 49ers 1983-91, joined Packers in 1992.

Jim Lind, linebackers; born November 11, 1947, Isle, Minnesota, lives in Green Bay. Linebacker Bethel College 1965-66; defensive back Bemidji State 1971-72. No pro playing experience. College coach: St. Cloud State 1977-78, St. John's (Minn.) 1979-1980, Brigham Young 1981-82, Minnesota-Morris 1983-86 (head coach), Wisconsin-Eau Claire 1987-1991 (head coach). Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1992.

Tom Lovat, offensive line; born December 28, 1938, Bingham, Utah, lives in Green Bay. Guard-linebacker Utah 1958-1960. No pro playing experience. College coach: Utah 1967, 1972-76 (head coach 1974-76), Idaho State 1968-1970, Stanford 1977-79, Wyoming 1989. Pro coach: Saskatchewan Roughriders (CFL) 1971, Green Bay Packers 1980, St. Louis-Phoenix Cardinals 1981-84, 1990-91, Indianapolis Colts 1985-88, rejoined Packers in 1992.

Andy Reid, quarterbacks; born March 19, 1958, Los Angeles, lives in Green Bay. Offensive tackle-guard Brigham Young 1978-1980. No pro playing experience. College coach: Brigham Young 1982, San Francisco State 1983-85, Northern Arizona 1986, Texas-El Paso 1987, Missouri 1988-1991. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1992.

Gary Reynolds, offensive assistant/quality control-administrative assistant/football operations; born October 15, 1966, Boston, lives in Green Bay. No college or pro playing experience. College coach: Texas A&M 1991, Tennessee 1992. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1993.

Barry Rubin, strength and conditioning assistant; born June 25, 1957, Monroe, Louisiana, lives in Green Bay. Running back Louisiana State 1977, tight end/punter Northwestern State (Louisiana) 1978-1980. College coach: Northeast Louisiana 1981-82, 1987-90, 1994, Louisiana State 1984-85. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1995.

Mike Sherman, tight ends-assistant offensive line; born December 19, 1954, Norwood, Massachusetts, lives in Green Bay. Linebacker-offensive guard-tackle Central Connecticut State 1974, 1976-77. No pro playing experience. College coach: Pittsburgh 1981-82, Tulane 1983-84, Holy Cross 1985-88, Texas A&M 1989-1993, 1995-96, UCLA 1994. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1997.

Fritz Shurmur, defensive coordinator; born July 15, 1932, Riverview, Michigan, lives in Suamico, Wisconsin. No pro playing experience. College coach: Albion 1956-1961, Wyoming 1962-74 (head coach 1971-74). Pro coach: Detroit Lions 1975-77, New England Patriots 1978-1981, Los Angeles Rams 1982-1990, Phoenix Cardinals 1991-93, joined Packers in 1994.

Harry Sydney, running backs; born June 26, 1959, Petersburg, Virginia, lives in Green Bay. Quarterback/running back Kansas 1978-1981. Pro running back Denver Gold (USFL) 1983-84, Memphis Showboats (USFL) 1985, Montreal Alouettes (CFL) 1986, San Francisco 49ers 1987-1991, Green Bay Packers 1992. Pro coach: Joined Packers in 1994.

Bob Valesente, defensive backs; born July 19, 1940, Seneca Falls, New York, lives in Green Bay. Halfback Ithaca College 1958-1961. No pro playing experience. College coach: Cornell 1964-1974, Cincinnati 1975-76, Arizona 1977-79, Mississippi State 1980-81, Kansas 1984-87 (head coach 1986-87), Maryland 1988, Pittsburgh 1989. Pro coach: Baltimore Colts 1982-83, Pittsburgh Steelers 1990-91, joined Packers in 1992.

HOW THE PACKERS WERE BUILT

1990 • 6-10 4th NFC Central	Draft: S LeRoy Butler (2)
1992 • 9-7 2nd NFC Central	Draft: WR Robert Brooks (3), TE Mark Chmura (6) Free Agent: LB George Koonce, C Frank Winters Trade: QB Brett Favre (from Atlanta)
1993 • 10-8 3rd NFC Central	Draft: T Earl Dotson (3), CB Doug Evans (6), DT Bob Kuberski (7) Free Agent: P Craig Hentrich, S Mike Prior, DE Reggie White Waivers: DT Gilbert Brown (from Minnesota)
1994 • 10-8 2nd NFC Central	Draft: G Aaron Taylor (1), DE Gabe Wilkins (4), WR Terry Mickens (5a), RB Dorsey Levens (5b),
1995 • 13-6 1st NFC Central	Draft: DT Darius Holland (3a), RB William Henderson (3b), LB Brian Williams (3c), WR Antonio Freeman (3d), RB Travis Jervey (5), WR Bill Schroeder (6), G Adam Timmerman (7) Free Agent: LB Bernardo Harris, S Roderick Mullen, QB Doug Pederson, TE Jeff Thomason
1996 • 16-3 Super Bowl XXXI Champions	Draft: T John Michels (1), WR Derrick Mayes (2), CB Tyrone Williams (3), RB Chris Darkins (4), G Marco Rivera (6), DE-LB Keith McKenzie (7) Free Agent: WR Don Beebe, C Jeff Dellenbach, DT Santana Dotson, LB Lamont Hollinquest, T Bruce Wilkerson Trade: S Eugene Robinson (from Seattle)
1997 • 15-3 NFC Champions	Draft: T Ross Verba (1), CB-S Darren Sharper (2), DT Jermaine Smith (4) Free Agent: G Joe Andruzzi, QB Steve Bono, CB Mark Collins, LS Ron Davis, TE Tyrone Davis, LB Seth Joyner, S Blaine McElmurry Trade: DE Paul Frase (from Jacksonville) Waivers: RB Aaron Hayden (from San Diego), K Ryan Longwell (from San Francisco)
	Draft (26) Free Agents (21) Trade (3) Waivers (3)

scouting report

BRONCOS

1997 AFC CHAMPIONS

denver

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach,
Mike Shanahan

Pro Career: Became the eleventh head coach in Broncos history on January 31, 1995. This season, Shanahan led the Broncos to a 12-4 record and their second consecutive playoff appearance. In 1996 Shanahan led the Broncos to a 13-3 record and the AFC Western Division title, tying the club record for wins in a season and leading the NFL in total offense. In 1995 he improved the Broncos to an 8-8 mark while stamping the Denver offense with his signature as the most productive unit in the AFC, finishing third in the NFL. During his NFL career, Shanahan has been a part of teams that have played in eight AFC or NFC Championship Games, in addition to his five Super Bowl appearances, four with Denver and Super Bowl XXIX with San Francisco, where he served as offensive coordinator from 1992-94. He first came to Denver in 1984 as wide receivers coach and was instrumental in the Broncos' offenses that led the club to three Super Bowls in the 1980s. Shanahan was the Broncos' offensive coordinator from 1985-87, and then returned to Denver as quarterbacks coach in 1989, after serving as head coach of the Los Angeles Raiders in 1988 and through the first four games of the 1989 campaign. His record with the Raiders was 8-12. Career record: 44-28.

Background: Shanahan began his coaching career at Oklahoma in 1975-76, also coaching at Northern Arizona (1977), Eastern Illinois (1978), and Minnesota (1979), before moving on to Florida (1980-83).

Personal: Shanahan was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on August 24, 1952. He attended Eastern Illinois, graduating in 1974 with a degree in physical education. He earned a master's degree there in 1975. Mike and his wife, Peggy, have two children, son Kyle and daughter Krystal.

ASSISTANT COACHES

Frank Bush, linebackers; born January 10, 1963, Athens, Georgia, lives in Englewood, Colorado. Linebacker North Carolina State 1981-84. Pro linebacker Houston Oilers 1985-86. Pro coach: Houston Oilers 1992-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

Barney Chavous, assistant offensive line-assistant strength and conditioning; born March 22, 1951, Aiken, South Carolina, lives in Englewood. Defensive end South Carolina State 1969-1972. Pro defensive end Denver Broncos 1973-1985. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1989.

Rick Dennison, special teams; born June 22, 1958, in Kalispel, Montana, lives in Englewood. Tight end Colorado State 1976-79. Pro linebacker Denver Broncos 1982-1990. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

Ed Donatell, special teams; born February 4, 1957, Akron, Ohio, lives in Littleton, Colorado. Safety Glenville State 1975-78. No pro playing experience. College coach: Kent State 1979-1980, Washington 1981-82, Pacific 1983-85, Idaho 1986-88, Cal State-Fullerton 1989. Pro coach: New York Jets 1990-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

George Dyer, defensive line; born May 4, 1940, Alhambra, California, lives in Aurora, Colorado. Center-linebacker U.C. Santa Barbara 1961-63. No pro playing experience. College coach: Humboldt State 1964-66, Coalinga (Calif.) J.C. 1967 (head coach), Portland State 1968-1971, Idaho 1972, San Jose State 1973, Michigan State 1977-79, Arizona State 1980-81. Pro coach: Winnipeg Blue Bombers (CFL) 1974-76, Buffalo Bills 1982, Seattle Seahawks 1983-1991, Los Angeles Rams 1992-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

Alex Gibbs, assistant head coach-offensive line; born February 11, 1941, Morganton, North Carolina, lives in Greenwood Village, Colorado. Running back-defensive back Davidson College 1959-1963. No pro playing experience. College coach: Duke 1969-1970, Kentucky 1971-72, West Virginia 1973-74, Ohio State 1975-78, Auburn 1979-1981, Georgia 1982-83. Pro coach: Denver Broncos 1984-87, Los Angeles Raiders 1988-89, San Diego Chargers 1990-91, Indianapolis Colts 1992, Kansas City Chiefs 1993-94, rejoined Broncos in 1995.

Mike Heimerdinger, wide receivers; born October 13, 1952, DeKalb, Illinois, lives in Englewood. Wide receiver Eastern Illinois 1970-74. No pro playing experience. College coach: Florida 1980, Air Force 1981, North Texas State 1982, Florida 1983-87, Cal State-Fullerton 1988, Rice 1989-1993, Duke 1994. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

Gary Kubiak, offensive coordinator-quarterbacks; born August 15, 1961, Houston, Texas, lives in Englewood. Quarterback Texas A&M 1979-1982. Pro quarterback Denver Broncos 1983-1991. College coach: Texas A&M 1992-93. Pro coach: San Francisco 49ers 1994, joined Broncos in 1995.

Dwain Painter, defensive assistant; born February 13, 1942, Monroeville, Pennsylvania, lives in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Quarterback-defensive back Rutgers 1961-64. No pro playing experience. College coach. San Jose State 1971-72, UCLA 1976-78, Northern Arizona 1979-1981 (head coach), Georgia Tech 1982-85, Texas 1986, Illinois 1987. Pro coach: Pittsburgh Steelers 1988-1991, Indianapolis Colts 1992-93, San Diego Chargers 1994-96, joined Broncos in 1997.

Brian Pariani, tight ends; born July 2, 1965, San Francisco, lives in Castle Pines, Colorado. No college or pro playing experience. College coach: UCLA 1989. Pro coach: San Francisco 49ers 1991-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

Ricky Porter, offensive assistant; born January 14, 1960, Sylacaga, Alabama, lives in Englewood. Running back Slippery Rock 1978-1981. Pro running back Detroit Lions 1982, Baltimore Colts 1983, Memphis Showboats (USFL) 1985, Montreal Alouettes (CFL) 1986-87, Buffalo Bills 1987. College coach: Slippery Rock 1990-91, Kent 1992-93. Pro coach: Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1996, joined Broncos in 1997.

Greg Robinson, defensive coordinator; born October 9, 1951, Los Angeles, lives in Aurora. Linebacker-tight end Pacific 1972-74. No pro playing experience. College coach: Pacific 1975-76, Cal State-Fullerton 1977-79, North Carolina State 1980-81, UCLA 1982-89. Pro coach: New York Jets 1990-94, joined Broncos in 1995.

Greg Saporta, assistant strength and conditioning; born February 2, 1957, New York City, lives in Englewood. Wide receiver Buffalo State 1977-79. No pro playing experience. College coach: Florida 1981-88, 1993-94, North Carolina 1989-1992. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

Rick Smith, defensive assistant; born September 3, 1969, Petersburg, Virginia, lives in Aurora. Safety Purdue 1987-1991. No pro playing experience. College coach: Purdue 1992-95. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1996.

John Teerlinck, pass rush specialist; born April 9, 1951, Rochester, New York, lives in Englewood. Defensive lineman Western Illinois 1970-73. Pro defensive tackle San Diego Chargers 1974-76. College coach: Iowa Lakes J.C. 1977, Eastern Illinois 1978-79, Illinois 1980-82. Pro coach: Chicago Blitz (USFL) 1983, Arizona Wranglers/Outlaws (USFL) 1984-85, Cleveland Browns 1989-1990, Los Angeles Rams 1991, Minnesota Vikings 1992-94, Detroit Lions 1995-96, joined Broncos in 1997.

Bobby Turner, running backs; born May 6, 1949, East Chicago, Indiana, lives in Englewood. Defensive back Indiana State 1968-1971. No pro playing experience. College coach: Indiana State 1975-1982, Fresno State 1983-88, Ohio State 1989-1990, Purdue 1991-94. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

Rich Tuten, strength and conditioning; born December 30, 1953, Columbia, South Carolina, lives in Englewood. Nose guard Clemson 1976-78. No pro playing experience. College coach: Florida 1979-1988, 1993-94, North Carolina 1989-1992. Pro coach: Joined Broncos in 1995.

HOW THE BRONCOS WERE BUILT

1983 • 9-8 3rd AFC West	Trade: QB John Elway (from Baltimore)
1989 • 13-6 AFC Champions	Draft: S Steve Atwater (1)
1990 • 5-11 5th AFC West	Draft: TE Shannon Sharpe
1993 • 9-8 3rd AFC West	Draft: K Jason Elam (3b) Free Agent: P Tom Rouen, G Brian Habib Trade: T Gary Zimmerman (from Minnesota)
1994 • 7-9 4th AFC West	Draft: LB Allen Aldridge (2), LB Keith Burns (7a), C Tom Nalen (7c) Free Agent: TE Dwayne Carswell, CB Ray Crockett, CB Randy Hilliard, DE Harald Hasselbach
1995 • 8-8 4th AFC West	Draft: T Jamie Brown, RB Terrell Davis (6b), LB Steve Russ (7a), TE Byron Chamberlain (7b) Free Agent: S Tyrone Braxton, LB Glenn Cadrez, WR Ed McCaffrey, G Mark Schlereth, WR Rod Smith, DT Maa Tanuvasa
1996 • 13-4 1st AFC West	Draft: LB John Mobley (1), Detron Smith (3a), QB Jeff Lewis (4a), CB Darrius Johnson (4b), WR Patrick Jeffers (5) Free Agent: G-C David Diaz-Infante, RB Vaughn Hebron, DE Ernest Jones, LB Bill Romanowski, DE Alfred Williams
1997 • 15-4 AFC Champions	Draft: DT Trevor Pryce (1), G Dan Neil (3), Free Agent: QB Bubby Brister, S Dedrick Dodge, WR Willie Green, CB Darrien Gordon, RB Howard Griffith, LB Jon Hesse, DT Mike Lodish, RB Derek Loville, RB Anthony Lynn, CB Tim McKyer, DT David Richie, DE Neil Smith, T Harry Swayne, DT Keith Traylor, S Tony Veland, WR Sir Mawn Wilson Trade: T Tony Jones (from Baltimore)
	Draft (17) Free Agents (33) Trade (3)

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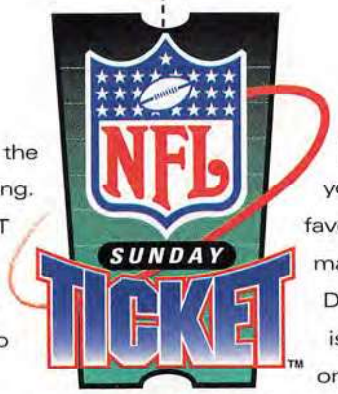

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Larry Brooks	Assistant Coach
Nolan Cromwell	Assistant Coach
Gil Haskell	Assistant Coach
Johnny Holland	Assistant Coach
Kent Johnston	Assistant Coach
Sherman Lewis	Assistant Coach
Jim Lind	Assistant Coach
Tom Lovat	Assistant Coach
Andy Reid	Assistant Coach
Gary Reynolds	Assistant Coach
Barry Rubin	Assistant Coach
Mike Sherman	Assistant Coach
Fritz Shurmur	Assistant Coach
Harry Sydney	Assistant Coach
Bob Valesente	Assistant Coach

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Mike Jelenic	Computer Systems Analyst
Lance Lopes	General Counsel
Traci Nygaard	Accounting Assistant
Jerry Parins	Corporate Security Officer
Phil Pionek	Executive Assistant to President
Sherry Schuldes	Director of Family Programs/Player Speakers Bureau
Vicki Vannieuwenhoven	Accountant
Wayne Wichlacz	Director of Computer Services
Margaret Meyers	Administrative Assistant/Business Affairs

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Ted Thompson	Director of Player Personnel
Jeanne Bruette	Administrative Assistant/General Manager
Reggie McKenzie	Pro Personnel Director
Matt Boockmeier	Pro Personnel Assistant
John Dorsey	College Scouting Director (Southeast)
Danny Mock	Scouting Coordinator
Shaun Herock	College Scout (Midwest)
Will Lewis	College Scout (East)
Scot McCloughan	College Scout (Rocky Mountains)
Johnny Meads	College Scout (Southwest)
Sam Seale	College Scout (West)
John (Red) Cochran	College Scout (North)
Susan Kluck	Administrative Assistant/Head Coach
Autumn Thomas-Beenenga	Administrative Assistant/Pro Personnel
Bill Nayes	Administrative Assistant/Football
Diane Coron	Secretary

CLUB PERSONNEL

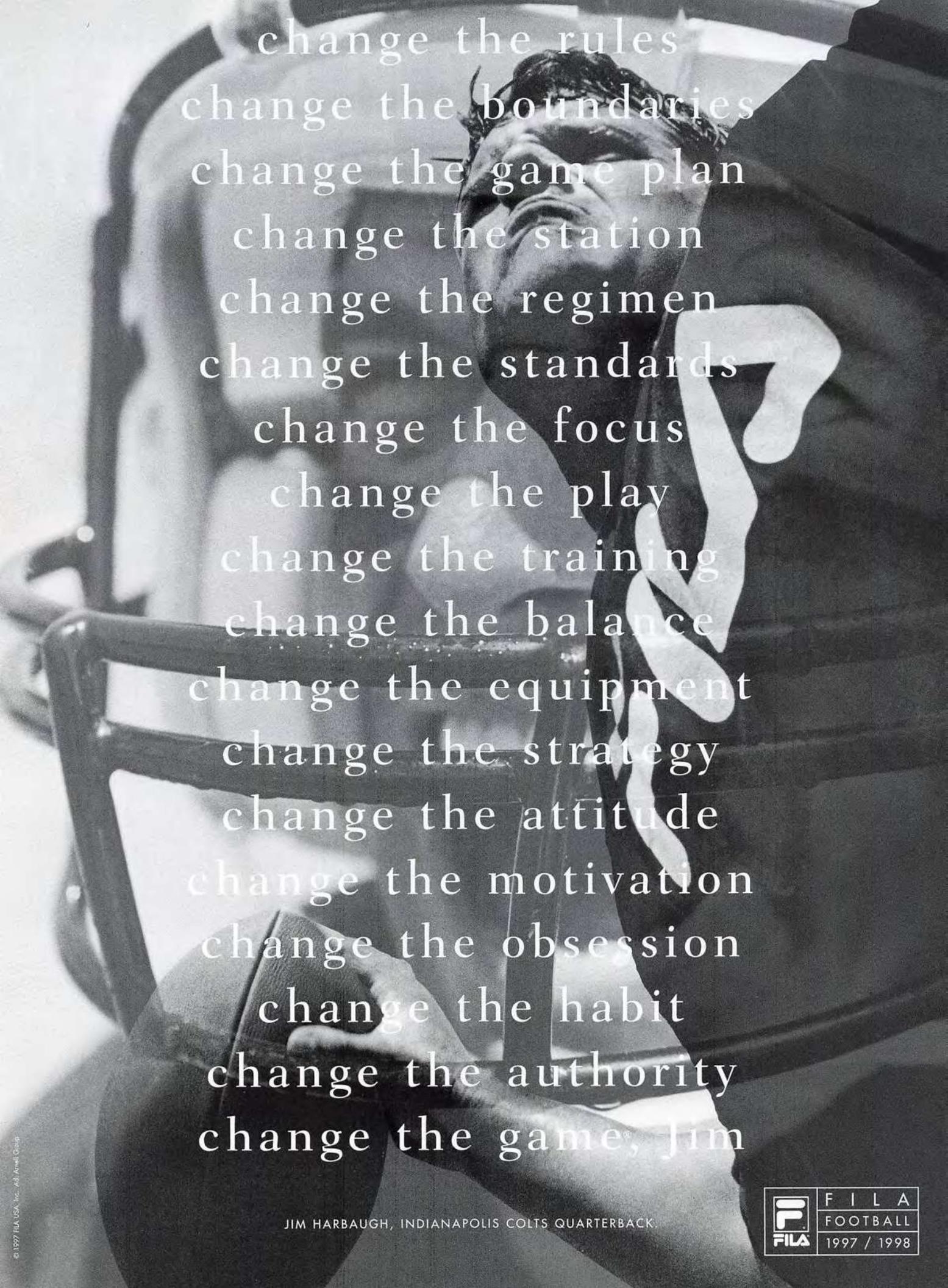
Lee Remmel	Public Relations Executive Director
Jeff Blumb	Public Relations Assistant Director
Mark Schiefelbein	Assistant Public Relations Director/Travel Coordinator
Aaron Popkey	Public Relations Assistant
Paula Martin	Administrative Assistant/Public Relations
Linda McCrossin	Public Relations Secretary/Receptionist
Carter Toole	Public Relations Intern
Jeff Cieply	Marketing Director
Ralph Ockenfels	Marketing Assistant
Kandi Goltz	Administrative Assistant/Marketing
Craig Kaczynski	Marketing Intern
Kate Hogan	Packer Pro Shop Manager
Lisa Berg	Packer Pro Shop Assistant/Retail Sales
Julie Schurk	Packer Pro Shop Assistant/Catalog Sales
Julie Pocquette	Packer Pro Shop
Trevor Vannieuwenhoven	Packer Pro Shop Assistant/Warehouse
Brandon Arndt	Packer Pro Shop Warehouse
Jeanne McKenna	Packer Pro Shop
Mark Wagner	Ticket Director
Carol Edwin	Assistant Ticket Director
Ann Marie Laes	Ticket Office Assistant
Chris Wahlen	Ticket Office Assistant
Ann Dabeck	Receptionist
LaFawn Joslin	Receptionist
Judy Mehlberg	Mail Clerk
Al Treml	Video Director
Bob Eckberg	Assistant Video Director
Chris Kirby	Video Assistant
Gordon (Red) Batty	Equipment Manager
Tom Bakken	Assistant Equipment Manager
Bryan Nehring	Assistant Equipment Manager
Tim O'Neill	Equipment Assistant
Pepper Burruss	Head Trainer
Dr. Patrick McKenzie	Team Physician
Dr. John Gray	Associate Team Physician
Kurt Fielding	Assistant Trainer
Sam Ramsden	Assistant Trainer
Bryan Engel	Training Room Intern
Ted Eisenreich	Buildings Supervisor
Todd Edlebeck	Fields Supervisor
Allen Johnnson	Grounds Assistant
Bill Rasmussen	Maintenance Assistant
Dave Tilot	Maintenance Assistant
Patrick (Ollie) Helf	Maintenance Assistant
Vernon J. Biever	Sideline Photographer
James V. Biever	Sideline Photographer

PACKERS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
70	Andruzzi, Joe	G	6-3	313	8/23/75	R	Southern Connecticut St.
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	185	12/18/64	9	Chadron State
13	Bono, Steve	QB	6-4	212	5/11/62	13	UCLA
87	Brooks, Robert	WR	6-0	180	6/23/70	6	South Carolina
93	Brown, Gilbert	DT	6-2	345	2/22/71	5	Kansas
36	Butler, LeRoy	S	6-0	200	7/19/68	8	Florida State
89	Chmura, Mark	TE	6-5	253	2/22/69	6	Boston College
26	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	202	1/16/64	12	Cal State-Fullerton
44	Darkins, Chris	RB	6-0	210	4/30/74	2	Minnesota
60	Davis, Rob	LS	6-3	288	12/10/68	2	Shippensburg
81	Davis, Tyrone	TE	6-4	264	6/30/72	2	Virginia
67	Dellenbach, Jeff	C-G	6-6	300	2/14/63	13	Wisconsin
72	Dotson, Earl	T	6-4	315	12/17/70	5	Texas A&I
71	Dotson, Santana	DT	6-5	285	12/19/69	6	Baylor
33	Evans, Doug	CB	6-1	190	5/13/70	5	Louisiana Tech
4	Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	225	10/10/69	7	Southern Mississippi
97	Frase, Paul	DE	6-5	267	5/6/65	9	Syracuse
86	Freeman, Antonio	WR	6-1	194	5/27/72	3	Virginia Tech
55	Harris, Bernardo	LB	6-2	247	10/15/71	3	North Carolina
24	Hayden, Aaron	RB	6-0	216	4/13/73	3	Tennessee
30	Henderson, William	RB	6-1	249	2/19/71	3	North Carolina
17	Hentrich, Craig	P	6-3	200	5/18/71	4	Notre Dame
90	Holland, Darius	DE-DT	6-5	320	11/10/73	3	Colorado
56	Hollinquest, Lamont	LB	6-3	250	10/24/70	4	Southern California
32	Jervey, Travis	RB	6-0	222	5/5/72	3	Citadel
54	Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	245	11/18/64	12	Texas-El Paso
53	Koonce, George	LB	6-1	243	10/15/68	6	East Carolina
94	Kuberski, Bob	DT	6-4	295	4/5/71	3	Navy
25	Levens, Dorsey	RB	6-1	230	5/21/70	4	Georgia Tech
8	Longwell, Ryan	K	6-0	185	8/16/74	R	California
80	Mayes, Derrick	WR	6-0	205	1/28/74	2	Notre Dame
38	McElmurry, Blaine	S	6-0	188	10/23/73	R	Montana
95	McKenzie, Keith	DE-LB	6-3	255	10/17/73	2	Ball State
77	Michels, John	T	6-7	304	3/19/73	2	Southern California
85	Mickens, Terry	WR	6-0	201	2/21/71	4	Florida A&M
28	Mullen, Roderick	CB-S	6-1	204	12/5/72	3	Grambling State
18	Pederson, Doug	QB	6-3	216	1/31/68	5	Northeast Louisiana
39	Prior, Mike	S	6-0	208	11/14/63	12	Illinois State
62	Rivera, Marco	C-G	6-4	295	4/26/72	2	Penn State
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	197	5/28/63	13	Colgate
84	Schroeder, Bill	WR	6-2	198	1/9/71	2	Wisconsin-La Crosse
42	Sharper, Darren	CB-S	6-2	205	11/3/75	R	William & Mary
99	Smith, Jermaine	DT	6-3	289	2/3/72	R	Georgia
73	Taylor, Aaron	G	6-4	305	11/14/72	4	Notre Dame
83	Thomason, Jeff	TE	6-5	250	12/30/69	5	Oregon
63	Timmerman, Adam	G	6-4	295	8/14/71	3	South Dakota State
78	Verba, Ross	T	6-4	299	10/31/73	R	Iowa
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	304	12/19/61	13	Tennessee
64	Wilkerson, Bruce	T	6-5	310	7/28/64	11	Tennessee
98	Wilkins, Gabe	DE	6-5	295	9/1/71	4	Gardner-Webb
51	Williams, Brian	LB	6-1	240	12/17/72	3	Southern California
37	Williams, Tyrone	CB	5-11	195	5/31/73	2	Nebraska
52	Winters, Frank	C	6-3	300	1/23/64	11	Western Illinois

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE							
WR	— 86	Antonio Freeman	80	Derrick Mayes	85	Terry Mickens	
LT	— 78	Ross Verba	77	John Michels	64	Bruce Wilkerson	
LG	— 73	Aaron Taylor	67	Jeff Dellenbach	62	Marco Rivera	
C	— 52	Frank Winters	67	Jeff Dellenbach	62	Marco Rivera	
RG	— 63	Adam Timmerman	67	Jeff Dellenbach	62	Marco Rivera	
					70	Joe Andruzzi	
RT	— 72	Earl Dotson	64	Bruce Wilkerson	77	John Michels	
TE	— 89	Mark Chmura	83	Jeff Thomason	81	Tyrone Davis	
WR	— 87	Robert Brooks	84	Bill Schroeder	82	Don Beebe	
QB	— 4	Brett Favre	13	Steve Bono	18	Doug Pederson	
RB	— 25	Dorsey Levens	24	Aaron Hayden	44	Chris Darkins	
RB	— 30	William Henderson	32	Travis Jervey			
DEFENSE							
LE	— 92	Reggie White	97	Paul Frase	90	Darius Holland	
DT	— 71	Santana Dotson	99	Jermaine Smith			
DT	— 93	Gilbert Brown	94	Bob Kuberski	90	Darius Holland	
RE	— 98	Gabe Wilkins	90	Darius Holland	95	Keith McKenzie	
LLB	— 54	Seth Joyner	56	Lamont Hollinquest	95	Keith McKenzie	
MLB	— 55	Bernardo Harris	53	George Koonce			
RLB	— 51	Brian Williams	56	Lamont Hollinquest			
LCB	— 37	Tyrone Williams	26	Mark Collins	28	Roderick Mullen	
RCB	— 33	Doug Evans	42	Darren Sharper			
SS	— 36	LeRoy Butler	39	Mike Prior	28	Roderick Mullen	
FS	— 41	Eugene Robinson	42	Darren Sharper	38	Blaine McElmurry	
SPECIALISTS							
P	— 17	Craig Hentrich	8	Ryan Longwell			
K	— 8	Ryan Longwell	17	Craig Hentrich			
KO	— 8	Ryan Longwell	17	Craig Hentrich			
H	— 17	Craig Hentrich	13	Steve Bono	18	Doug Pederson	
PR	— 87	Robert Brooks	42	Darren Sharper	84	Bill Schroeder	
KR	— 82	Don Beebe	24	Aaron Hayden	44	Chris Darkins	
PC	— 60	Rob Davis	52	Frank Winters	89	Mark Chmura	
KC	— 60	Rob Davis	67	Jeff Dellenbach	52	Frank Winters	



JIM HARBAUGH, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS QUARTERBACK.

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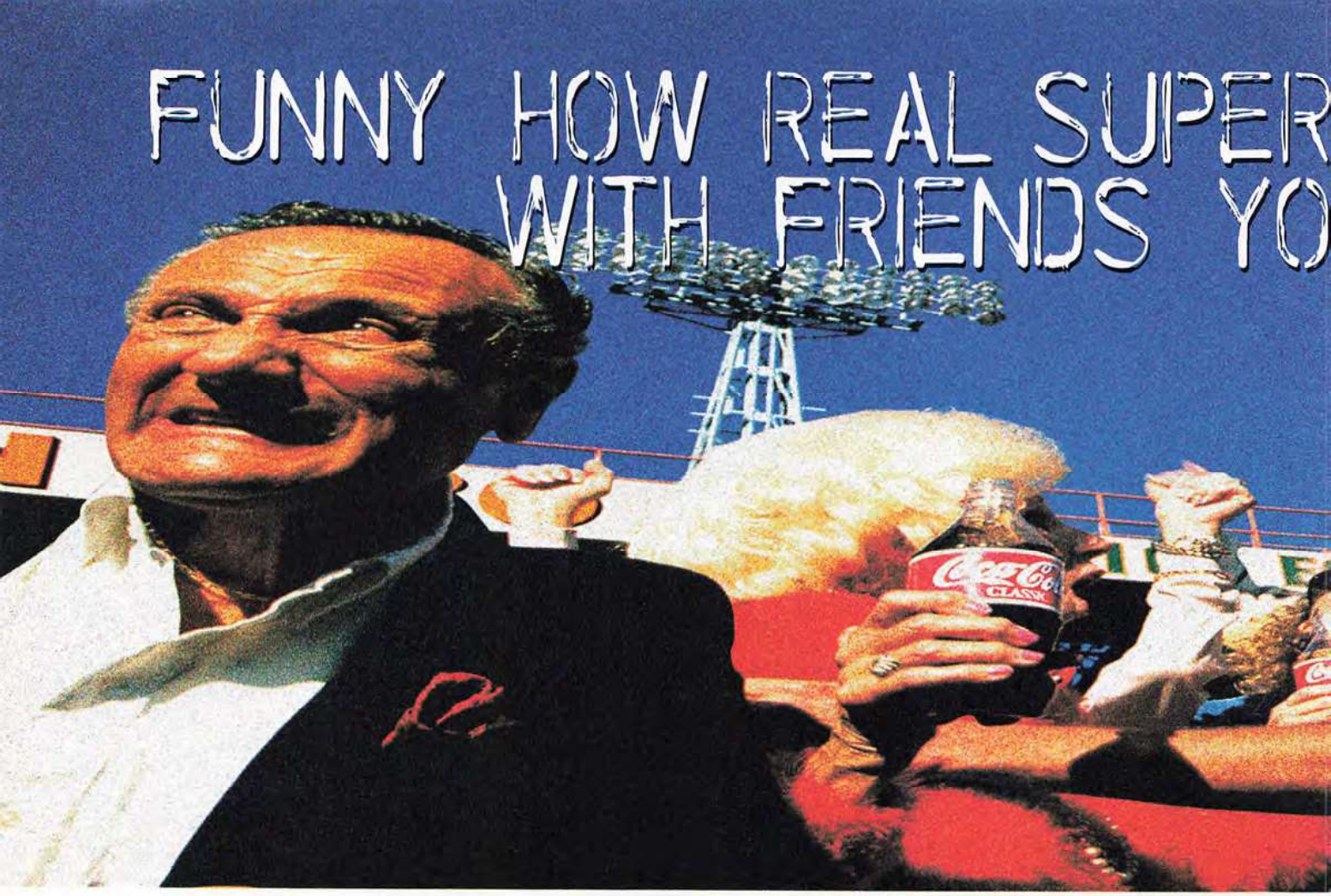

DENVER BRONCOS

STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
80	Rod Smith . . . . . WR	90	Neil Smith . . . . . LE
65	Gary Zimmerman . . LT	94	Keith Traylor . . . . . LT
69	Mark Schlereth. . . . . LG	98	Maa Tanuvasa . . . . . RT
66	Tom Nalen C	91	Alfred Williams. . . . . RE
75	Brian Habib . . . . . RG	51	John Mobley . . . . . LLB
77	Tony Jones. . . . . RT	57	Allen Aldridge . . . . MLB
84	Shannon Sharpe . . . . TE	53	Bill Romanowski . . . RLB
87	Ed McCaffrey . . . . . WR	39	Ray Crockett . . . . . LCB
7	John Elway . . . . . QB	23	Darrien Gordon . . . RCB
30	Terrell Davis . . . . . RB	34	Tyrone Braxton . . . . . SS
29	Howard Griffith . . . . RB	27	Steve Atwater . . . . . FS

BRONCOS NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	No.	Name	Pos.
1	Jason Elam	K	62	Dan Neil	G
6	Bubby Brister	QB	63	David Diaz-Infante	G-C
7	John Elway	QB	65	Gary Zimmerman	T
8	Jeff Lewis	QB	66	Tom Nalen	C
16	Tom Rouen	P	69	Mark Schlereth	G
21	Randy Hilliard	CB	70	Jamie Brown	T
22	Vaughn Hebron	RB	72	Ernest Jones	DE
23	Darrien Gordon	CB	74	Harry Swayne	T
25	Darrius Johnson	CB	75	Brian Habib	G
26	Tim McKyer	CB	77	Tony Jones	T
27	Steve Atwater	S	80	Rod Smith	WR
29	Howard Griffith	RB	81	Patrick Jeffers	WR
30	Terrell Davis	RB	84	Shannon Sharpe	TE
31	Derek Loville	RB	85	Willie Green	WR
32	Tony Veland	S	86	Byron Chamberlain	TE
33	Dedrick Dodge	S	87	Ed McCaffrey	WR
34	Tyrone Braxton	S	88	Sir Mawn Wilson	WR
37	Anthony Lynn	RB	89	Dwayne Carswell	TE
39	Ray Crockett	CB	90	Neil Smith	DE
42	Detron Smith	RB	91	Alfred Williams	DE
50	Jon Hesse	LB	93	Trevor Pryce	DT
51	John Mobley	LB	94	Keith Traylor	DT
53	Bill Romanowski	LB	96	Harald Hasselbach	DE
56	Keith Burns	LB	97	Mike Lodish	DT
57	Allen Aldridge	LB	98	Maa Tanuvasa	DT
58	Steve Russ	LB	99	David Richie	DT
59	Glenn Cadrez	LB			

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GREEN BAY PACKERS

STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE

86	Antonio Freeman	WR
78	Ross Verba	LT
73	Aaron Taylor	LG
52	Frank Winters	C
63	Adam Timmerman	RG
72	Earl Dotson	RT
89	Mark Chmura	TE
87	Robert Brooks	WR
4	Brett Favre	QB
25	Dorsey Levens	RB
30	William Henderson	RB

DEFENSE

92	Reggie White	LE
71	Santana Dotson	LT
93	Gilbert Brown	RT
98	Gabe Wilkins	RE
54	Seth Joyner	LLB
55	Bernardo Harris	MLB
51	Brian Williams	RLB
37	Tyrone Williams	LCB
33	Doug Evans	RCB
36	LeRoy Butler	SS
41	Eugene Robinson	FS

PACKERS NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.
4	Brett Favre	QB
8	Ryan Longwell	K
13	Steve Bono	QB
17	Craig Hentrich	P
18	Doug Pederson	QB
24	Aaron Hayden	RB
25	Dorsey Levens	RB
26	Mark Collins	CB
28	Roderick Mullen	CB-S
30	William Henderson	RB
32	Travis Jervey	RB
33	Doug Evans	CB
36	LeRoy Butler	S
37	Tyrone Williams	CB
38	Blaine McElmurry	S
39	Mike Prior	S
41	Eugene Robinson	S
42	Darren Sharper	CB-S
44	Chris Darkins	RB
51	Brian Williams	LB
52	Frank Winters	C
53	George Koonce	LB
54	Seth Joyner	LB
55	Bernardo Harris	LB
56	Lamont Hollinquest	LB
60	Rob Davis	LS
62	Marco Rivera	C-G
63	Adam Timmerman	G
64	Bruce Wilkerson	T
67	Jeff Dellenbach	C-G
70	Joe Andruzzi	G
71	Santana Dotson	DT
72	Earl Dotson	T
73	Aaron Taylor	G
77	John Michels	T
78	Ross Verba	T
80	Derrick Mayes	WR
81	Tyrone Davis	TE
82	Don Beebe	WR
83	Jeff Thomason	TE
84	Bill Schroeder	WR
85	Terry Mickens	WR
86	Antonio Freeman	WR
87	Robert Brooks	WR
89	Mark Chmura	TE
90	Darius Holland	DE-DT
92	Reggie White	DE
93	Gilbert Brown	DT
94	Bob Kuberski	DT
95	Keith McKenzie	DE-LB
97	Paul Frase	DE
98	Gabe Wilkins	DE
99	Jermaine Smith	DT

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Frank Bush	Assistant Coach
Barney Chavous	Assistant Coach
Rick Dennison	Assistant Coach
Ed Donatell	Assistant Coach
George Dyer	Assistant Coach
Alex Gibbs	Assistant Coach
Mike Heimerdinger	Assistant Coach
Gary Kubiak	Assistant Coach
Dwain Painter	Assistant Coach
Brian Pariani	Assistant Coach
Ricky Porter	Assistant Coach
Greg Robinson	Assistant Coach
Greg Saporta	Assistant Coach
Rick Smith	Assistant Coach
John Teerlinck	Assistant Coach
Bobby Turner	Assistant Coach
Rich Tuten	Assistant Coach

ADMINISTRATION

Pat Bowlen	Owner and Chief Executive Officer
Yolanda Saltus	Senior Executive to President and CEO
Bill Bowlen	Board Member
John Bowlen	Board Member
Bill Britton	Board Member
Tim Guard	Board Member
Jeff Harman	Board Member
Fred Hemmings	Board Member
John Jagger	Board Member
John Beake	General Manager
Kristi Nichols	Executive Assistant to the General Manager
David Wass	Vice President of Business Operations
Lisa Monroe	Executive Assistant to Vice President of Business Operations
Jim Schafer	Assistant to the President
Veronica Ibarra	Administrative Assistant

FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

Neal Dahlen	Director of Player Personnel
Jack Elway	Director of Pro Scouting
Ted Sundquist	Director of College Scouting
Jerry Frei	College Scouting Consultant
Dave Blando	Director of Salary Cap and Football Finance Administration
Bob Beers	College Scout
Marv Braden	College Scout
Scott DiStefano	College Scout
Dave Gettleman	College Scout
Cornell Green	College Scout
Charlie Lee	College Scout
Chris Trulove	Pro Personnel Assistant
Mike Bluem	College Scouting Assistant
Pam Hynes, Jill Fishman	Player Personnel Assistants

CLUB PERSONNEL

Allen Fears	Chief Financial Officer
Rick Nichols	Director of Ticket Operations/Business Development
Jim Saccomano	Senior Director of Media Relations
Gail Stuckey	Director of Stadium Operations
Bill Harpole	Director of Operations
Sara Gilbertson	Director of Marketing
Fred Fleming	Assistant to the General Manager/Community Relations
Billy Thompson	Director of Player Relations
Steve Antonopulos	Head Athletic Trainer
Doug West	Equipment Manager
Kent Erickson	Director of Video Operations
Tom Ramsey	Director of Corporate Sales
Michael Young	Director of Corporate Relations
Ross Kurcab	Turf Manager
Rick Schoenhals	Manager of Information Systems
Patti Barban	Senior Ticket Assistant
Jo Bidwell	Accounting Manager
Ronnie Bill	Assistant Equipment Manager
Ulysses Byas	Assistant Trainer
Lee Carpenter	Community Relations Secratary
Chip Conway	Facilities Assistant
Wes Conway, Troy Smith	Assistant Turf Managers
Dave Daubers	Operator/Programmer for Information Systems
Molly Dougan	Loge Box Coordinator
Maeve Drake	Receptionist
Carol Gibbons	Ticket Assistant
Dixie Greer	Assistant Coaches Secretary/Video Department
Steve Harbula	Marketing Coordinator
Beverly J. Havens, Sheila Thomas	Accounting
Dr. Richard Hawkins, Dr. Arthur Ziporin	Team Physicians
Trevor Hinz	Senior Ticket Assistant
Kirt Horiuchi	Video Assistant
Neely Hunt	Director of Cheerleaders
Gary Kalika	Network Manager
Jim Keller	Assistant Trainer
Paul Kirk, Richard Stewart	Media Relations Assistants
Sue Kissell	Manager/Broncos Store
Pamela Krotchko	Marketing Coordinator
Cindi Lowe	Secretary to Head Coach
Gary McCune	Assistant Video Director
Jim Reese	Ticket Assistant
Steve Sewell	Community Relations Coordinator
Sheila Thomas	Accounting
Chris Valenti	Equipment Assistatant
Susan Vaughn, Meredith Zier	Administrative Assistants
Bitt Williams	Marketing Assistant
Sherry Zoltay	Insurance Coordinator

BRONCOS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
57	Aldridge, Allen	LB	6-1	243	5/30/72	4	Houston
27	Atwater, Steve	S	6-3	216	10/28/66	9	Arkansas
34	Braxton, Tyrone	S	5-11	185	12/17/64	11	North Dakota State
6	Brister, Bubby	QB	6-3	205	8/15/62	11	Northeast Louisiana
70	Brown, Jamie	T	6-8	315	4/24/72	3	Florida A&M
56	Burns, Keith	LB	6-2	236	5/16/72	4	Oklahoma State
59	Cadrez, Glenn	LB	6-3	249	1/2/70	6	Houston
89	Carswell, Dwayne	TE	6-3	260	1/18/72	4	Liberty
86	Chamberlain, Byron	TE	6-1	242	10/17/71	3	Wayne State
39	Crockett, Ray	CB	5-10	184	1/5/67	9	Baylor
30	Davis, Terrell	RB	5-11	210	10/28/72	3	Georgia
63	Diaz-Infante, David	G-C	6-3	296	3/31/64	3	San Jose State
33	Dodge, Dedrick	S	6-2	187	6/14/67	6	Florida State
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	200	3/8/70	5	Hawaii
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	215	6/28/60	15	Stanford
23	Gordon, Darrien	CB	5-11	178	11/14/70	5	Stanford
85	Green, Willie	WR	6-4	191	4/2/66	8	Mississippi
29	Griffith, Howard	RB	6-0	232	11/17/67	5	Illinois
75	Habib, Brian	G	6-7	293	12/2/64	10	Washington
96	Hasselbach, Harald	DE	6-6	284	9/22/67	4	Washington
22	Hebron, Vaughn	RB	5-8	192	10/7/70	5	Virginia Tech
50	Hesse, Jon	LB	6-3	258	6/6/73	R	Nebraska
21	Hilliard, Randy	CB	5-11	168	2/6/67	8	Northwestern State (La.)
81	Jeffers, Patrick	WR	6-3	218	2/2/73	2	Virginia
25	Johnson, Darrius	CB	5-9	185	9/17/72	2	Oklahoma
72	Jones, Ernest	DE	6-2	255	4/1/71	3	Oregon
77	Jones, Tony	T	6-5	291	5/24/66	10	Western Carolina
8	Lewis, Jeff	QB	6-2	211	4/17/73	2	Northern Arizona
97	Lodish, Mike	DT	6-3	280	8/11/67	8	UCLA
31	Loville, Derek	RB	5-10	208	7/4/68	7	Oregon
37	Lynn, Anthony	RB	6-3	230	12/21/68	4	Texas Tech
87	McCaffrey, Ed	WR	6-5	215	8/17/68	7	Stanford
26	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-0	178	9/5/63	12	Texas-Arlington
51	Mobley, John	LB	6-1	236	10/10/73	2	Kutztown
66	Nalen, Tom	C	6-2	286	5/13/71	4	Boston College
62	Neil, Dan	G	6-2	281	10/21/73	R	Texas
93	Pryce, Trevor	DT	6-5	284	8/3/75	R	Clemson
99	Richie, David	DT	6-4	280	9/26/73	R	Washington
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	245	4/2/66	10	Boston College
16	Rouen, Tom	P	6-3	225	6/9/68	5	Colorado
58	Russ, Steve	LB	6-4	245	9/16/72	1	Air Force
69	Schlereth, Mark	G	6-3	287	1/25/66	9	Idaho
84	Sharpe, Shannon	TE	6-2	228	6/26/68	8	Savannah State
42	Smith, Detron	RB	5-9	230	2/25/74	2	Texas A&M
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6-4	269	4/10/66	10	Nebraska
80	Smith, Rod	WR	6-0	196	5/15/70	3	Missouri Southern
74	Swayne, Harry	T	6-5	293	2/2/65	11	Rutgers
98	Tanuvasa, Maa	DT	6-2	267	11/6/70	3	Hawaii
94	Traylor, Keith	DT	6-2	304	9/3/69	6	Central State (Ok.)
32	Veland, Tony	S	6-1	209	3/11/73	1	Nebraska
91	Williams, Alfred	DE	6-6	263	11/6/68	7	Colorado
88	Wilson, Sir Mawn	WR	6-2	213	6/4/73	1	Syracuse
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	294	12/13/61	12	Oregon

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE							
WR	— 80	Rod Smith	85	Willie Green	81	Patrick Jeffers	
LT	— 65	Gary Zimmerman	70	Jamie Brown	74	Harry Swayne	
LG	— 69	Mark Schlereth	63	David Diaz-Infante			
C	— 66	Tom Nalen	63	David Diaz-Infante			
RG	— 75	Brian Habib	62	Dan Neil			
RT	— 77	Tony Jones	70	Jamie Brown	74	Harry Swayne	
TE	— 84	Shannon Sharpe	89	Dwayne Carswell	86	Byron Chamberlain	
WR	— 87	Ed McCaffrey	81	Patrick Jeffers	88	Sir Mawn Wilson	
QB	— 7	John Elway	6	Bubby Brister	8	Jeff Lewis	
RB	— 30	Terrell Davis	31	Derek Loville	22	Vaughn Hebron	
RB	— 29	Howard Griffith	42	Detron Smith	37	Anthony Lynn	
DEFENSE							
LE	— 90	Neil Smith	96	Harald Hasselbach			
LT	— 94	Keith Traylor	93	Trevor Pryce	99	David Richie	
RT	— 98	Maa Tanuvasa	97	Mike Lodish			
RE	— 91	Alfred Williams	72	Ernest Jones			
LLB	51	John Mobley	58	Steve Russ			
MLB	— 57	Allen Aldridge	56	Keith Burns	50	Jon Hesse	
RLB	— 53	Bill Romanowski	59	Glenn Cadrez			
LCB	— 39	Ray Crockett	25	Darrius Johnson			
RCB	— 23	Darrien Gordon	26	Tim McKyer	21	Randy Hilliard	
SS	— 34	Tyrone Braxton	33	Dedrick Dodge			
FS	— 27	Steve Atwater	32	Tony Veland			
SPECIALISTS							
P	— 16	Tom Rouen	1	Jason Elam			
K	— 1	Jason Elam	16	Tom Rouen			
KO	— 1	Jason Elam	16	Tom Rouen			
H	— 16	Tom Rouen	8	Jeff Lewis			
PR	— 23	Darrien Gordon	80	Rod Smith			
KR	— 22	Vaughn Hebron	31	Derek Loville	80	Rod Smith	
PC	— 57	Allen Aldridge	98	Maa Tanuvasa	63	David Diaz-Infante	
KC	— 63	David Diaz-Infante	66	Tom Nalen			

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Got cable TV? Then you're probably paying too much for too little. Read on and you'll understand why there's never been a better time to switch to DIRECTV. Turn on DIRECTV and you'll see a vast improvement over cable. Access to over 175 channels, all in crystal-clear digital picture and CD-quality sound. Including all your favorite cable networks and channels cable probably doesn't give you. You can also select from a wide range of affordable programming subscriptions. And coming this March, we'll add 8 new channels at no additional charge.

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Football fans have a lot more to cheer about with DIRECTV. Because NFL SUNDAY TICKET lets you choose from up to 13 games every Sunday. So you can watch your favorite out-of-town teams and players throughout the regular season. You can't get it on cable or any other mini-dish system – only on DIRECTV.

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When there's nothing to watch on cable, you trudge out to the video store, fighting your way through crowds, only to find that the movie you wanted to see is already checked out. DIRECTV eliminates the hassle once and for all. We offer up to 55 different pay per view movie choices a night, with the latest hits starting as often as every half hour. You can also get hundreds more films a week from 14 different premium movie channels including STARZ! and ENCORE. Add USSB and you can choose from Multi-Channel HBO, Showtime, and more. Better stock up on the microwave popcorn.

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PACKERS

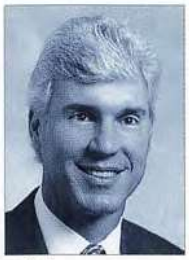
green bay

PLAYERS AND STAFF

Robert E. Harlan
President and Chief Executive Officer

Ron Wolf
Executive Vice President/ General Manager

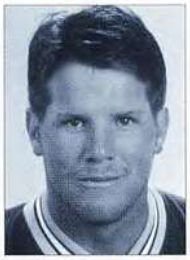
Michael R. Reinfeldt
Vice President of Administration/ Chief Financial Officer



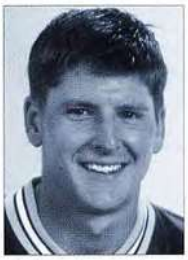
Ted Thompson
Director of Player Personnel

Reggie McKenzie
Director of Pro Personnel

Mike Holmgren
Head Coach



4 Brett Favre
Quarterback



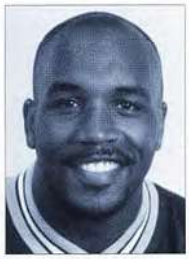
8 Ryan Longwell
Kicker

13 Steve Bono
Quarterback

17 Craig Hentrich
Punter

18 Doug Pederson
Quarterback

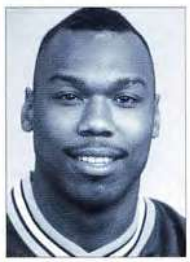
21 Craig Newsome
Cornerback



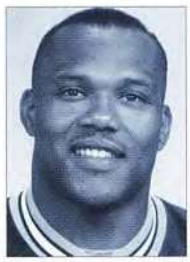
24 Aaron Hayden
Running Back

25 Dorsey Levens
Running Back

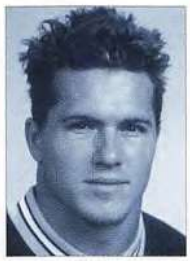
26 Mark Collins
Cornerback



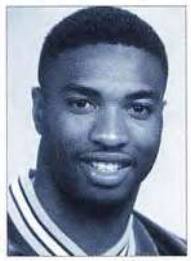
28 Roderick Mullen
Cornerback/Safety



30 William Henderson
Running Back

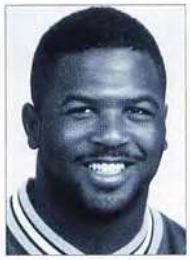


32 Travis Jervey
Running Back



33 Doug Evans
Cornerback

34 Edgar Bennett
Running Back

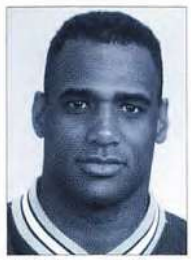


36 LeRoy Butler
Safety

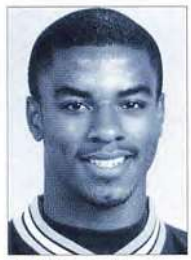
37 Tyrone Williams
Cornerback

38 Blaine McElmurry
Safety

39 Mike Prior
Safety

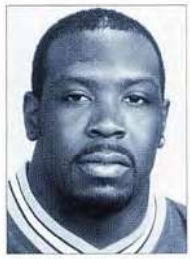


41 Eugene Robinson
Safety



42 Darren Sharper
Cornerback/Safety

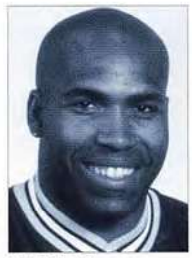
44 Chris Darkins
Running Back



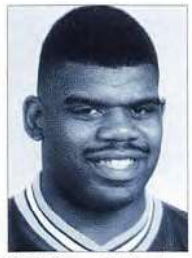
51 Brian Williams
Linebacker

52 Frank Winters
Center

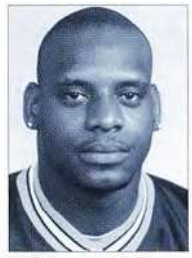
53 George Koonce
Linebacker



54 Seth Joyner
Linebacker



55 Bernardo Harris
Linebacker



56 Lamont Hollinquest
Linebacker

60 Rob Davis
Long Snapper

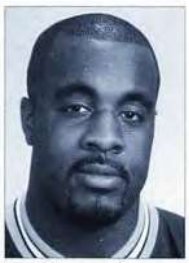
62 Marco Rivera
Center/Guard

63 Adam Timmerman
Guard

64 Bruce Wilkerson
Tackle

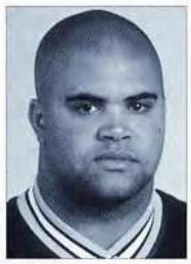
67 Jeff Dellenbach
Center/Guard

70 Joe Andruzzi
Guard

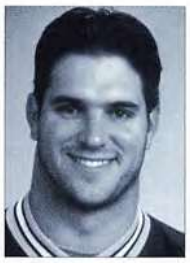


71 Santana Dotson
Defensive Tackle

72 Earl Dotson
Tackle

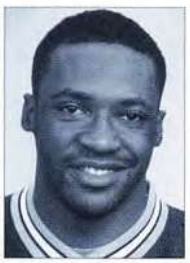


73 Aaron Taylor
Guard



77 John Michels
Tackle

78 Ross Verba
Tackle



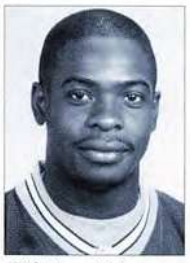
80 Derrick Mayes
Wide Receiver

81 Tyrone Davis
Tight End

82 Don Beebe
Wide Receiver

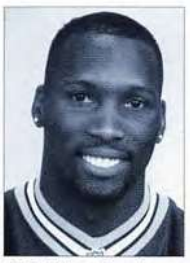
83 Jeff Thomason
Tight End

84 Bill Schroeder
Wide Receiver



85 Terry Mickens
Wide Receiver

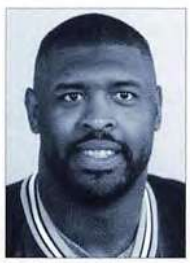
86 Antonio Freeman
Wide Receiver



87 Robert Brooks
Wide Receiver

89 Mark Chmura
Tight End

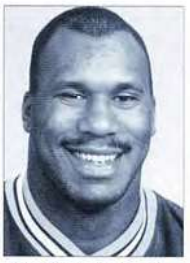
90 Darius Holland
Defensive Tackle



92 Reggie White
Defensive End

93 Gilbert Brown
Defensive Tackle

94 Bob Kuberski
Defensive Tackle



95 Keith McKenzie
Linebacker/ Defensive End

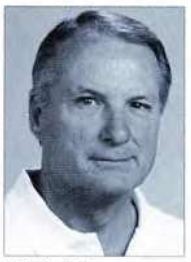
97 Paul Frase
Defensive End

98 Gabe Wilkins
Defensive End

99 Jermaine Smith
Defensive Tackle

Larry Brooks
Assistant Coach

Nolan Cromwell
Assistant Coach



Gil Haskell
Assistant Coach

Johnny Holland
Assistant Coach

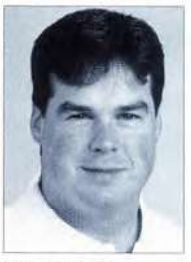
Kent Johnston
Assistant Coach

Sherman Lewis
Assistant Coach

Jim Lind
Assistant Coach

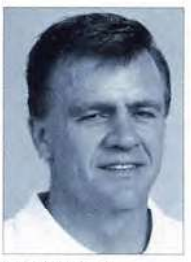
Tom Lovat
Assistant Coach

Andy Reid
Assistant Coach



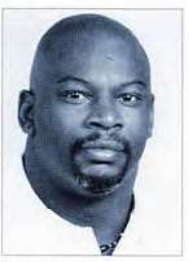
Gary Reynolds
Assistant Coach

Barry Rubin
Assistant Coach

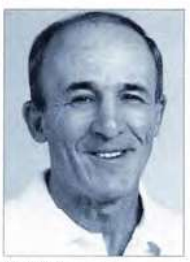


Mike Sherman
Assistant Coach

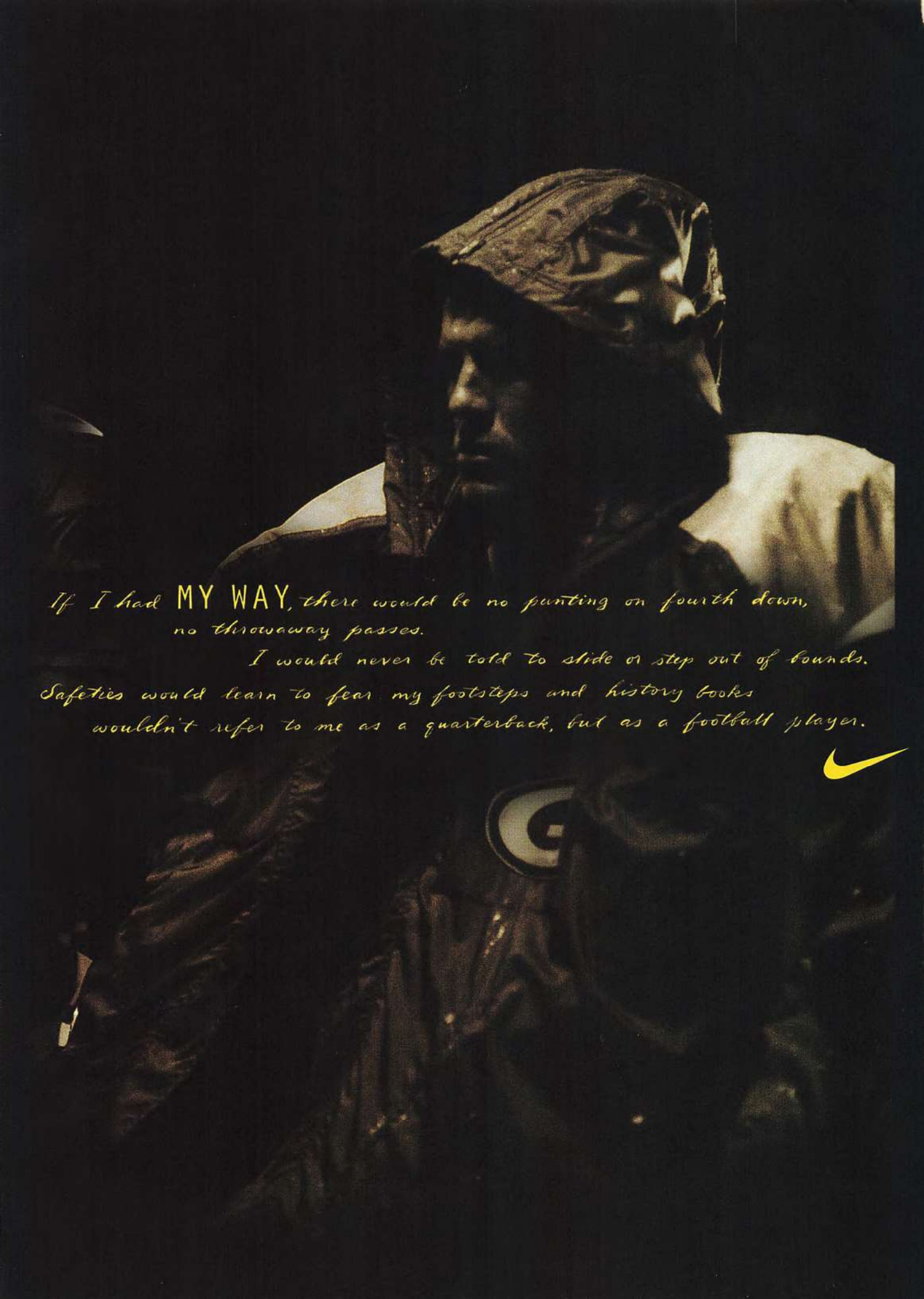
Fritz Shurmur
Assistant Coach



Harry Sydney
Assistant Coach



Bob Valesente
Assistant Coach


If I had MY WAY, there would be no punting on fourth down,
no throwaway passes.
I would never be told to slide or step out of bounds.
Safeties would learn to fear my footsteps and history books
wouldn't refer to me as a quarterback, but as a football player.

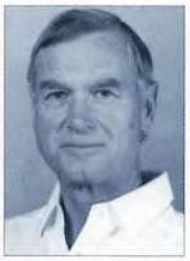
BRONCOS

PLAYERS AND STAFF denver

Pat Bowlen
Owner

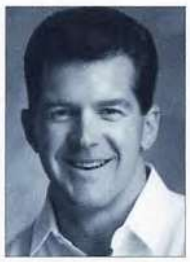
John Beake
General Manager

David Wass
Vice President

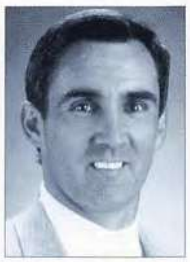


Neal Dahlen
Director of Player Personnel

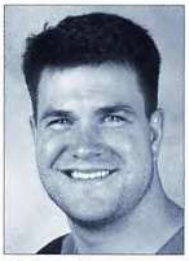
Jack Elway
Director of Pro Scouting



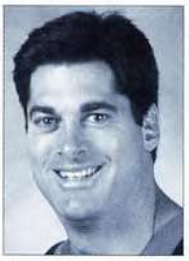
Ted Sundquist
Director of College Scouting



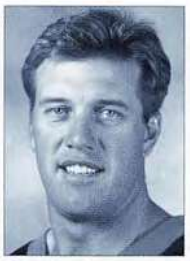
Mike Shanahan
Head Coach



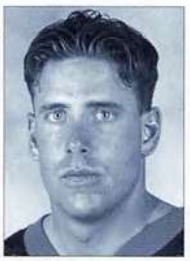
1 Jason Elam
Kicker



6 Bubby Brister
Quarterback



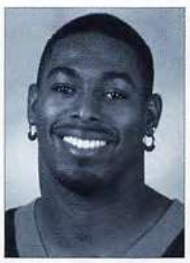
7 John Elway
Quarterback



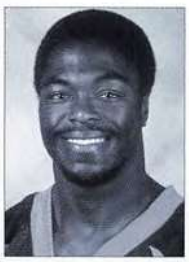
8 Jeff Lewis
Quarterback

16 Tom Rouen
Punter

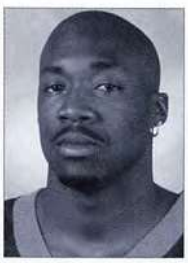
21 Randy Hilliard
Cornerback



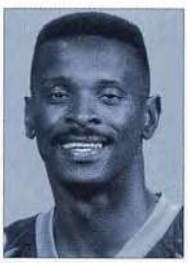
22 Vaughn Hebron
Running Back



23 Darrien Gordon
Cornerback

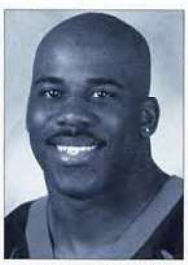


25 Darrius Johnson
Cornerback

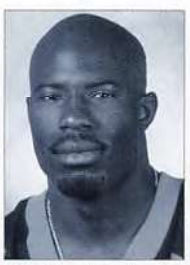


26 Tim McKyer
Cornerback

27 Steve Atwater
Safety



29 Howard Griffith
Fullback

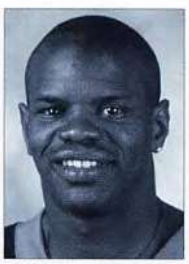


30 Terrell Davis
Running Back

31 Derek Loville
Running Back

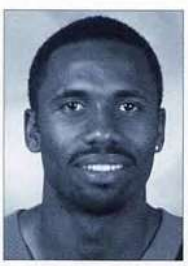
32 Tony Veland
Safety

33 Dedrick Dodge
Safety



34 Tyrone Braxton
Safety

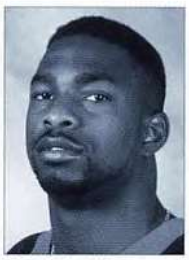
37 Anthony Lynn
Fullback



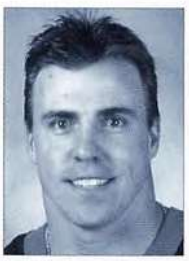
39 Ray Crockett
Cornerback

42 Detron Smith
Fullback

50 Jon Hesse
Linebacker



51 John Mobley
Linebacker



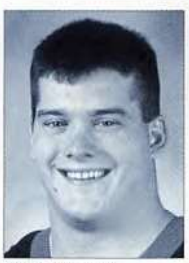
53 Bill Romanowski
Linebacker

56 Keith Burns
Linebacker

57 Allen Aldridge
Linebacker

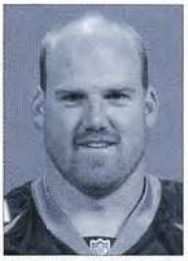
58 Steve Russ
Linebacker

59 Glenn Cadrez
Linebacker



62 Dan Neil
Guard

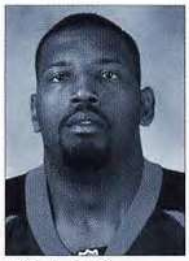
63 David Diaz-Infante
Guard/Center



65 Gary Zimmerman
Tackle

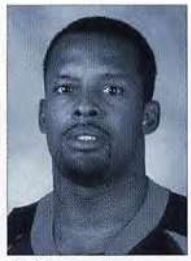
66 Tom Nalen
Center

69 Mark Schlereth
Guard



70 Jamie Brown
Tackle

72 Ernest Jones
Defensive End



74 Harry Swayne
Tackle

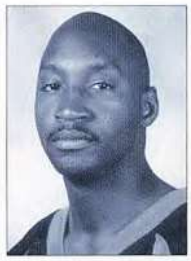
75 Brian Habib
Guard

77 Tony Jones
Tackle

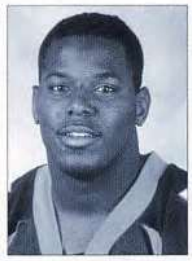
80 Rod Smith
Wide Receiver

81 Patrick Jeffers
Wide Receiver

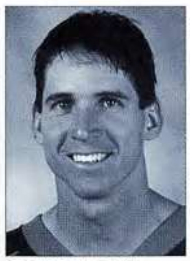
84 Shannon Sharpe
Tight End



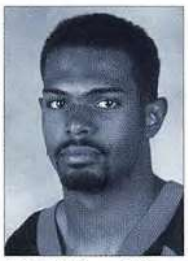
85 Willie Green
Wide Receiver



86 Byron Chamberlain
Tight End

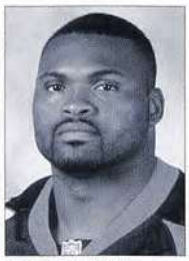


87 Ed McCaffrey
Wide Receiver

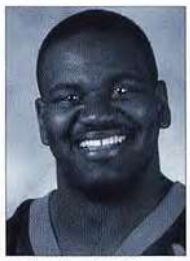


88 Sir Mawn Wilson
Wide Receiver

89 Dwayne Carswell
Tight End

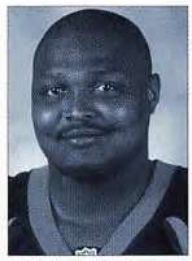


90 Neil Smith
Defensive End

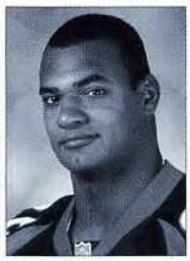


91 Alfred Williams
Defensive End

93 Trevor Pryce
Defensive Tackle



94 Keith Traylor
Defensive Tackle

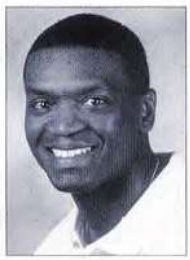


96 Harald Hasselbach
Defensive End

97 Mike Lodish
Defensive Tackle

98 Maa Tanuvasa
Defensive Tackle

99 David Richie
Defensive Tackle



Frank Bush
Assistant Coach

Barney Chavous
Assistant Coach

Rick Dennison
Assistant Coach

Ed Donatell
Assistant Coach

George Dyer
Assistant Coach

Alex Gibbs
Assistant Coach

Mike Heimerdinger
Assistant Coach

Gary Kubiak
Assistant Coach

Dwain Painter
Assistant Coach

Brian Pariani
Assistant Coach

Ricky Porter
Assistant Coach

Greg Robinson
Assistant Coach

Greg Saporta
Assistant Coach

Rick Smith
Assistant Coach

John Teerlinck
Assistant Coach

Bobby Turner
Assistant Coach

Rich Tuten
Assistant Coach

PACKERS

JAMES BIEVER

Robert Harlan

Bob Harlan was 24 years old when he attended a Packers' game with his wife in 1960. Harlan was the Marquette University sports information director at the time, and he turned to his wife and said, "I hope one day that I can become the public relations director for the Green Bay Packers."

Eleven years later the Packers hired him—as the club's assistant general manager. He worked his way up through the ranks until June 5, 1989. Then the board of directors of the NFL's only publicly owned club elected Harlan to his current title of president and chief executive officer.

Once elected, Harlan's dream began—to make immediate changes to a franchise that had reached the playoffs just once in its previous 17 seasons. In 1991, Harlan made a decision that has had a domino effect on the Packers: He hired Ron Wolf to head the team's football operations.

Within months after his arrival, Wolf chose Mike Holmgren to be the head coach and traded a first-round draft pick to the Atlanta Falcons for a young quarterback named Brett Favre. It is safe to say the Packers would not be playing for their second consecutive Super Bowl title without these additions.

One of Harlan's other crowning achievements is the Don Hutson Center, a state-of-the-art indoor practice facility named for the former Packers legend.

Bob and Madeline Harlan have three sons—Kevin, a play-by-play announcer for the Minnesota Timberwolves of the NBA and for NFL telecasts on FOX; Bryan, the Chicago Bears' director of public relations; and Michael, an account executive for sports marketing and sales for the Marcus Corporation.

BRONCOS

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Pat Bowlen

"I want us to be number one in everything." That was the mission set by Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen prior to the 1997 season.

Bowlen started the drive to be number one in 1995, hiring San Francisco offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan as the team's head coach. Bowlen also became active in the free-agent market, adding 23 unrestricted free agents to Denver's roster. These moves, combined with shrewd draft choices such as sixth-round running back Terrell Davis, have put the Broncos in position to achieve Bowlen's goal today in Super Bowl XXXII.

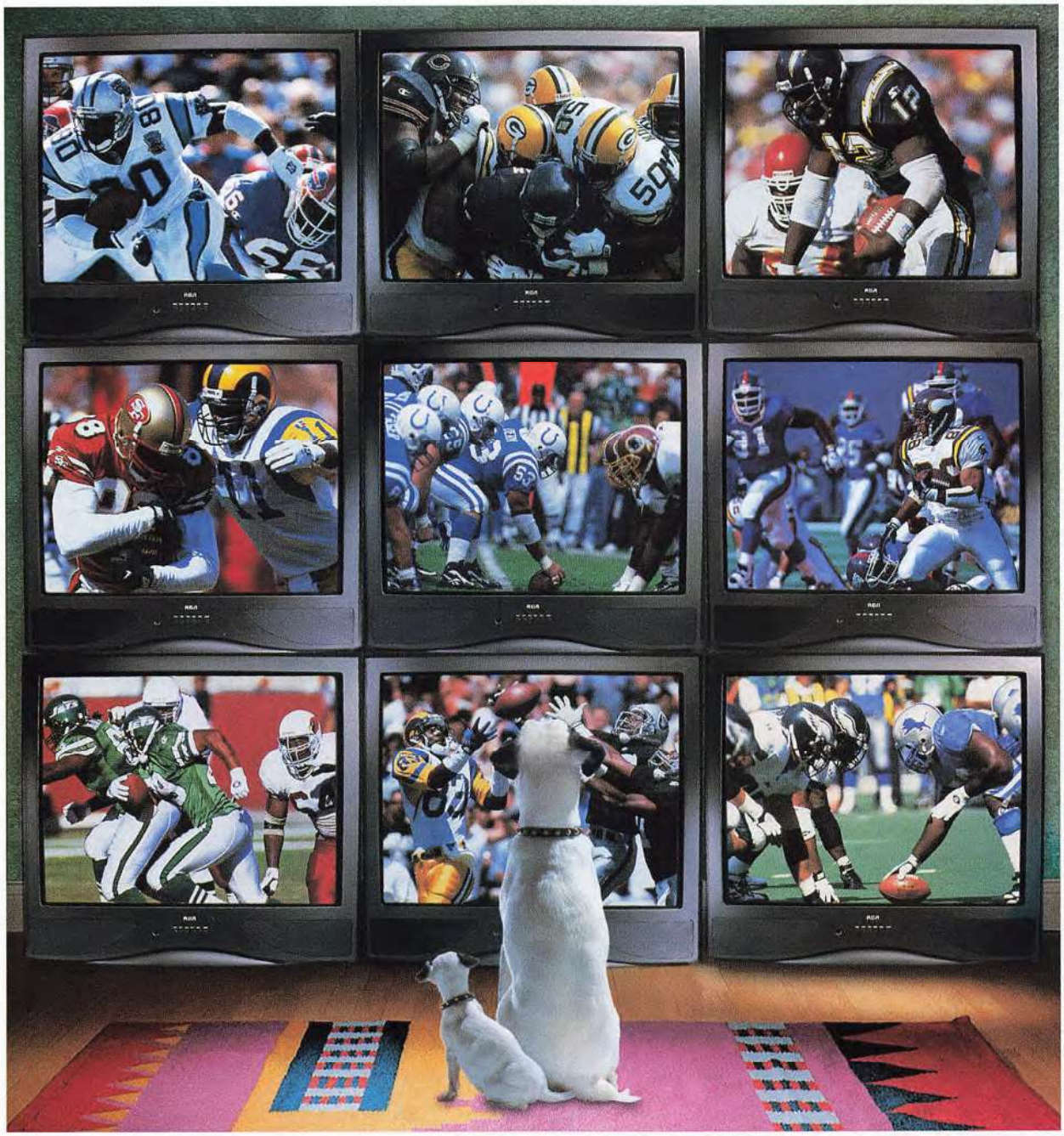
Since Bowlen assumed ownership in 1984, the Broncos have been one of the most consistent teams in the AFC, winning six AFC Western Division titles and four AFC championships. Under Bowlen's leadership, the Broncos have had eight playoff appearances and only two losing seasons. The 1997 season marked the twenty-eighth consecutive year of home sellouts at Mile High Stadium, longest in the AFC.

Bowlen's impact also has been felt outside Denver. He was a key figure in the league's labor and television contracts. Bowlen currently is the chairman of the NFL's broadcasting committee. He also is chairman of the NFL Enterprises/NFL Films executive committees, serves as a member of the NFL international committee, and is on the World League board of directors.

Bowlen is active in the Denver community. Along with being honorary chairman of the Special Olympics, he was 1993's Outstanding Celebrity.

Born in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, Bowlen attended the University of Oklahoma, earning degrees in business (1965) and law (1968).

The RCA Home Theatre and DSS® System.
Required equipment for the armchair quarterback.



Want to get close to your favorite NFL team? Nothing puts you there like the new RCA Home Theatre. Especially when you team it with the newest RCA brand DSS® System and a subscription to NFL SUNDAY TICKET™ on DIRECTV.® You can catch up to 13 NFL games every Sunday, plus get special league programming. For the best sports action, leave it to RCA to bring you this season's most versatile receiver.

RCA is the Official Consumer Electronics Provider of the NFL

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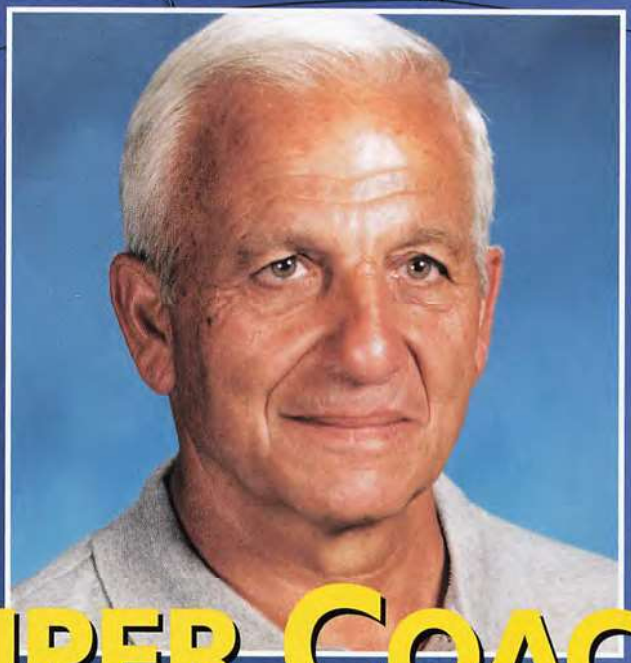
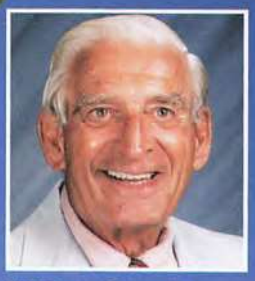


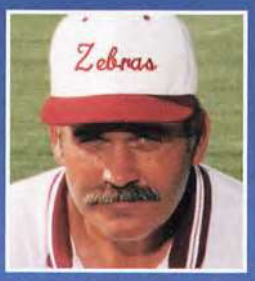
SUPER COACH!

Saluting the 1997 NFL High School Football Coach of the Year

The players of the National Football League didn't get where they are by accident. It took a combination of talent, hard work, patience...and good coaching. That is why the NFL is proud to announce the winner of the 1997 NFL High School Football Coach of the Year award, which is presented annually to a deserving person who had a meaningful impact on an NFL player during his formative years. This year's recipient is Albert Fracassa of Brother Rice High School in Bloomington Hills, Michigan, who was nominated by tight end Pete Mitchell of the Jacksonville Jaguars. He is the NFL's guest at Super Bowl XXXII in San Diego. Fracassa also received a $5,000 cash award, and a $10,000 grant was made to Brother Rice High School in his name and Mitchell's name. Congratulations to Albert Fracassa and all the other high school football coaches for the outstanding work they do for young people.



Cliff Faust, University School (Cleveland, OH)
Finalist—Nominated by Jason Garrett (Cowboys)



Marion Glover, Pine Bluff High (Pine Bluff, AR)
Finalist—Nominated by William Roaf (Saints)

Bill Holt, McAlester High (McAlester, OK)
Finalist—Nominated by Troy Aikman (Cowboys)

Jimmy Wallace, Northwestern High (Rock Hill, SC)
Finalist—Nominated by Jeff Burris (Bills)

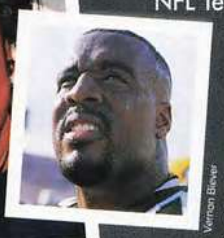
Paul Spinelli/NFLP

NFL Players Have Heroes, Too

Every month during the season, NFL players get a chance to thank the men and women who inspired them in the classroom by nominating them for the NFL Teacher of the Month Award.

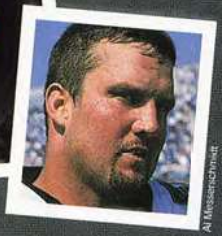
The award was created by Commissioner Paul Tagliabue in 1990 to "encourage our young fans to think of teachers, as well as athletes, as role models." Each of four monthly winners receives a $2,500 grant, and the teacher's school receives a $5,000 NFL scholarship. The NFL Teacher of the Year receives a $5,000 grant and his or her school is given a $10,000 scholarship.

Congratulations to the 1997 winners, as determined by a select panel of educators and civic leaders.



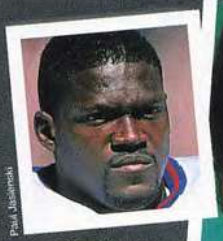
Vernon Biever

TEACHER OF THE YEAR ▶
Teacher: Sarah Gibbs
Yates High School
Houston, Texas
Player: Santana Dotson,
Green Bay Packers



Al Messerschmidt

◀ SEPTEMBER
Teacher: Judy Miller
Loudoun Valley High School
Purcellville, Virginia
Player: Jeff Lageman,
Jacksonville Jaguars



Paul Jasienski

OCTOBER ▶
Teacher: Millie Hursin
Thorne Elementary
Dearborn Heights, Michigan
Player: Tyrone Wheatley,
New York Giants

Corky Trewin

◀ NOVEMBER
Teacher: Nan Pate
Brookstone High School
Columbus, Georgia
Player: Mack Strong,
Seattle Seahawks

Allen Kee

DECEMBER ▶
Teacher: Carolyn Barrett
Moultrie Middle School
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina
Player: Robert Porcher,
Detroit Lions

The NFL Teacher of the Month Award Saluting Excellence in Education!

Touchdown, Field Goal, or Successful Try

Safety

Time Out

Dead Ball or Neutral Zone Established, Crowd Noise

First Down

Personal Foul

Reset Play Clock-40 seconds

Reset Play Clock-25 seconds

Ball Illegally Touched, Kicked, or Batted

Delay of Game, Illegal Substitution, or Excess Time Out

No Time Out or Time in With Whistle

Offside or Encroaching

Holding

Penalty Refused, Incomplete Pass, Play Over, or Missed Field Goal

Face Mask

Ineligible Receiver or Ineligible Member of Kicking Team Downfield

Illegal Motion at Snap

Illegal Shift

Crawling, Interlocking Interference, Pushing, or Helping Runner

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Tripping

Illegal Crackback

Illegal Cut or Blocking Below the Waist, Chop Blocks

Intentional Grounding of Pass

Touching a Forward Pass or Scrimmage Kick

Player Disqualified

Illegal Contact

False Start, Illegal Shift, Illegal Formation, or Kickoff or Safety Kick Out of Bounds

Illegal Substitution or Too Many Men on the Field

Illegal Use of Hands, Arms, or Body

Pass Juggled Inbounds, and Caught Out of Bounds

Illegal Forward Pass

Loss of Down

Invalid Fair Catch Signal

Uncatchable Forward Pass

Interference With Forward Pass or Fair Catch

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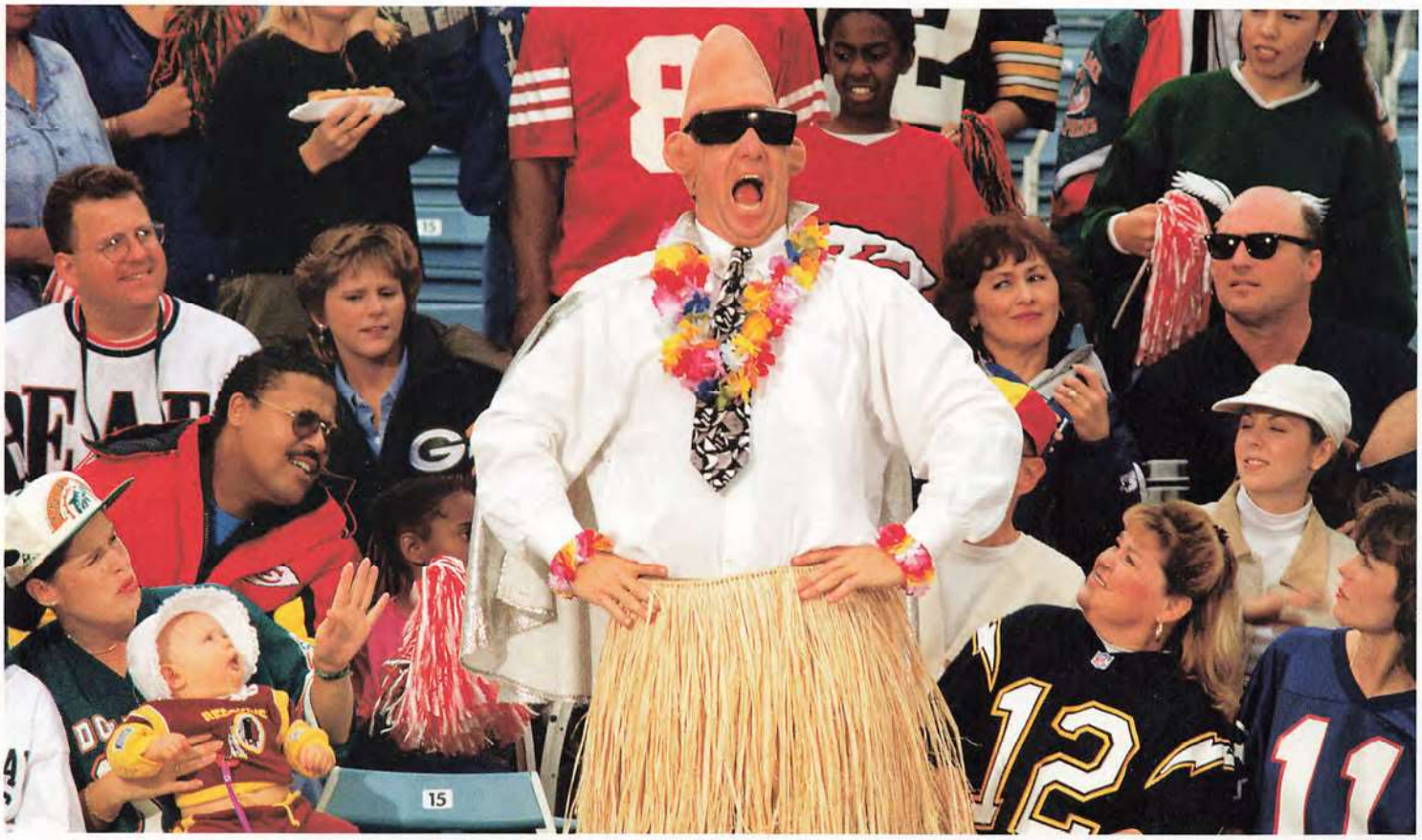

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SCORING

Most Points, Career
42 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games (7-td)
30 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games (5-td)
24 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-td)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (4-td)
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games (4-td)

Most Points, Game
18 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (3-td)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-td); vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-td)
Ricky Watters, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-td)
15 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (3-pat, 4-fg)

Most Touchdowns, Career
7 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games (7-p)
5 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games (5-r)
4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-r)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (2-r, 2-p)
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games (4-r)

Most Touchdowns, Game
3 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (1-r, 2-p)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-p); vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-p)
Ricky Watters, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX (1-r, 2-p)
2 By 17 players

Most Field Goals, Career
5 Ray Wersching, San Francisco, 2 games (5 att)
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (4 att)
Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games (6 att)
Uwe von Schamann, Miami, 2 games (4 att)

Most Field Goals, Game
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Ray Wersching, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI
3 By seven players

Longest Field Goal
54 Steve Christie, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
48 Jan Stenerud, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV
Rich Karlis, Denver vs. N.Y. Giants, XXI

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Career
101 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
70 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games
64 John Riggins, Washington, 2 games

Most Attempts, Game
38 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
34 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
33 Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Yards Gained, Career
354 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
297 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games
289 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
204 Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
191 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
166 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Longest Run From Scrimmage
74 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII (TD)
58 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III
Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career
5 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games
4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Touchdowns, Game
2 By 10 players

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Career
145 Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games
122 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games

Most Passes Attempted, Game
58 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
50 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII

Most Passes Completed, Career
83 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
81 Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Passes Completed, Game
31 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
29 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Most Yards Gained, Career
1,142 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
932 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
357 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
340 Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Pass Completion
81 Brett Favre (to Freeman), Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI
80 Jim Plunkett (to King), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
Doug Williams (to Sanders), Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Most Touchdown Passes, Career
11 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
9 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Touchdown Passes, Game
6 Steve Young, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
5 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Most Attempts Without Interception, Game
36 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
Steve Young, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
35 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Career
7 Craig Morton, Dallas-Denver, 2 games
Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games
6 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games
John Elway, Denver, 3 games

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Game
4 Craig Morton, Denver vs. Dallas, XII
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
Drew Bledsoe, New England vs. Green Bay, XXXI
3 By nine players

RECEPTIONS

Most Receptions, Career
28 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
27 Andre Reed, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Receptions, Game
11 Dan Ross, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
10 Tony Nathan, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
Andre Hastings, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XXX

Most Yards Gained, Career
512 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
364 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
215 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
193 Ricky Sanders, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Reception
81 Antonio Freeman (from Favre), Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI (TD)
80 Kenny King (from Plunkett), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Ricky Sanders (from Williams), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career
7 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games

Most Touchdowns, Game
3 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV; vs. San Diego, XXIX
2 By nine players

INTERCEPTIONS BY

Most Interceptions By, Career
3 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Rod Martin, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 2 games
Larry Brown, Dallas, 3 games
2 By nine players

Most Interceptions By, Game
3 Rod Martin, Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
2 By seven players

Most Yards Gained, Career
77 Larry Brown, Dallas, 3 games
75 Willie Brown, Oakland, 2 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
77 Larry Brown, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, XXX
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Longest Return
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI (TD)
60 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Game
1 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Jack Squirek, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Reggie Phillips, Chicago vs. New England, XX

PUNTING

Most Punts, Career
17 Mike Eischeid, Oakland-Minnesota, 3 games
15 Larry Seiple, Miami, 3 games
Mike Horan, Denver, 3 games

Most Punts, Game
9 Ron Widby, Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
8 Tom Tupa, New England vs. Green Bay, XXXI

Longest Punt
63 Lee Johnson, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII
62 Rich Camarillo, New England vs. Chicago, XX

Highest Average, Punting, Career (10 punts)
46.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City, 2 games (11-511)
41.9 Ray Guy, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games (14-587)

Highest Average, Punting, Game (4 punts)
48.8 Bryan Wagner, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX (4-195)
48.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV (4-194)
46.3 Jim Miller, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI (4-185)

PUNT RETURNS

Most Punt Returns, Career
6 By seven players

Most Punt Returns, Game
6 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI
5 Willie Wood, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Dana McLemore, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Fair Catches, Game
3 Ron Gardin, Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
Golden Richards, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Greg Pruitt, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Al Edwards, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Giants, XXV
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants vs. Buffalo, XXV

Most Yards Gained, Career
94 John Taylor, San Francisco, 3 games
90 Desmond Howard, Green Bay, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game
90 Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI
56 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII

Longest Return
45 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
34 Darrell Green, Washington vs. L.A. Raiders, XVIII
Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)
15.7 John Taylor, San Francisco, 3 games (6-94)
15.0 Desmond Howard, Green Bay, 1 game (6-90)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)
18.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII (3-56)
15.0 Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI (6-90)

KICKOFF RETURNS

Most Kickoff Returns, Career
10 Ken Bell, Denver, 3 games
8 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game

Most Kickoff Returns, Game
8 Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX
7 Stephen Starring, New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Career
283 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
244 Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game
244 Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX
190 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII

Longest Return
99 Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI (TD)
98 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)
Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX (TD)

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)
38.5 Desmond Howard, Green Bay, 1 game (4-154)
35.4 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games (8-283)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)
47.5 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (4-190)
38.5 Desmond Howard, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI (4-154)

SACKS

Most Sacks, Career
4.5 Charles Haley, San Francisco-Dallas, 5 games
3 Danny Stubbs, San Francisco, 2 games
Leonard Marshall, N.Y. Giants, 2 games
Jeff Wright, Buffalo, 4 games
Reggie White, Green Bay, 1 game

Most Sacks, Game
3 Reggie White, Green Bay vs. New England, XXXI
2 By 11 players

SCORING

Most Points, Game
55 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
52 Dallas vs. Buffalo, XXVII

Fewest Points, Game
3 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
6 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Points, Both Teams, Game
75 San Francisco (49) vs. San Diego (26), XXIX
69 Dallas (52) vs. Buffalo (17), XXVII

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Game
21 Washington (7) vs. Miami (14), VII
22 Minnesota (6) vs. Pittsburgh (16), IX

Largest Margin of Victory, Game
45 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (55-10)
36 Chicago vs. New England, XX (46-10)

Most Points, Each Half
1st: 35 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
2nd: 30 New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Each Half
1st: 2 Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX
2nd: 7 Miami (0) vs. Washington (7), VII
Denver (0) vs. Washington (7), XXII

FIRST DOWNS

Most First Downs, Game
31 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
28 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX

Fewest First Downs, Game
9 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Miami vs. Washington, XVII
10 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Miami vs. Dallas, VI

Most First Downs, Both Teams, Game
50 San Francisco (31) vs. Miami (19), XIX
49 Buffalo (25) vs. Washington (24), XXVI

Fewest First Downs, Both Teams, Game
24 Dallas (10) vs. Baltimore (14), V
26 Minnesota (9) vs. Pittsburgh (17), IX

TOTAL YARDS

Most Yards Gained, Game
602 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
537 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
119 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
123 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
929 Washington (602) vs. Denver (327), XXII
851 San Francisco (537) vs. Miami (314), XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
452 Minnesota (119) vs. Pittsburgh (333), IX
481 Washington (228) vs. Miami (253), VII
Denver (156) vs. Dallas (325), XII

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Game
57 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
53 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Fewest Attempts, Game
9 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
11 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Attempts, Both Teams, Game
81 Washington (52) vs. Miami (29), XVII
78 Pittsburgh (57) vs. Minnesota (21), IX
Oakland (52) vs. Minnesota (26), XI

Fewest Attempts, Both Teams, Game
49 Miami (9) vs. San Francisco (40), XIX
New England (13) vs. Green Bay (36), XXXI
51 San Diego (19) vs. San Francisco (32), XXIX

Most Yards Gained, Game
280 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
276 Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
7 New England vs. Chicago, XX
17 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
377 Washington (280) vs. Denver (97), XXII
372 Washington (276) vs. Miami (96), XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
158 New England (43) vs. Green Bay (115), XXXI
159 Dallas (56) vs. Pittsburgh (103), XXX
168 Buffalo (43) vs. Washington (125), XXVI

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Game
59 Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
55 San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX

Fewest Passes Attempted, Game
7 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
11 Miami vs. Washington, VII

Most Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game
93 San Diego (55) vs. San Francisco (38), XXIX
92 Buffalo (59) vs. Washington (33), XXVI

Fewest Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game
35 Miami (7) vs. Minnesota (28), VIII
39 Miami (11) vs. Washington (28), VII

Most Passes Completed, Game
31 Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
29 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI

Fewest Passes Completed, Game
4 Miami vs. Washington, XVII
6 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game
53 Miami (29) vs. San Francisco (24), XIX
52 San Diego (27) vs. San Francisco (25), XXIX

Fewest Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game
19 Miami (4) vs. Washington (15), XVII
20 Pittsburgh (9) vs. Minnesota (11), IX

Most Yards Gained, Game
341 San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
326 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
35 Denver vs. Dallas, XII
63 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
615 San Francisco (326) vs. Miami (289), XIX
603 San Francisco (316) vs. San Diego (287), XXIX

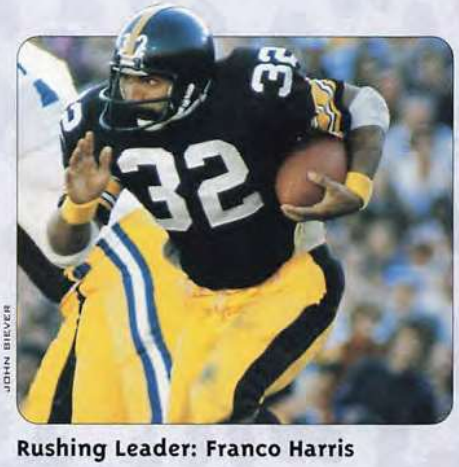
Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
156 Miami (69) vs. Washington (87), VII
186 Pittsburgh (84) vs. Minnesota (102), IX

Most Times Sacked, Game
7 Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
New England vs. Chicago, XX
6 Kansas City vs. Green Bay, I
Washington vs. Los Angeles Raiders, XVIII
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

CAREER PASSING LEADERS

(Minimum 40 attempts)

Player, Team	Games	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Joe Montana, San Francisco	4	122	83	68.0	1142	9.36	11	9.0	44	0	0.0	127.8
Jim Plunkett, Oakland-L.A.Raiders	2	46	29	63.0	433	9.41	4	8.7	80t	0	0.0	122.8
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	4	84	49	58.3	932	11.10	9	10.7	75t	4	4.8	112.8
Troy Aikman, Dallas	3	80	56	70.0	689	8.61	5	6.3	45t	1	1.3	111.9
Bart Starr, Green Bay	2	47	29	61.7	452	9.62	3	6.4	62t	1	2.1	106.0
Roger Staubach, Dallas	4	98	61	62.2	734	7.49	8	8.2	45t	4	4.1	95.4
Len Dawson, Kansas City	2	44	28	63.6	353	8.02	2	4.5	46t	2	4.5	84.8
Bob Griese, Miami	3	41	26	63.4	295	7.20	1	2.4	28t	2	4.9	72.7
Dan Marino, Miami	1	50	29	58.0	318	6.36	1	2.0	30	2	4.0	66.9
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	4	145	81	56.0	856	5.90	2	1.4	40	7	4.8	57.7
Joe Theismann, Washington	2	58	31	53.4	386	6.66	2	3.4	60	4	6.9	57.1
Stan Humphries, San Diego	1	49	24	48.9	275	5.61	1	2.0	33	2	4.1	56.1
Neil O'Donnell, Pittsburgh	1	49	28	57.1	239	4.87	1	2.0	19	3	6.1	51.3
John Elway, Denver	3	101	46	45.5	669	6.62	2	1.9	56t	6	5.9	49.5
Drew Bledsoe, New England	1	48	25	52.1	253	5.27	2	4.2	44	4	8.3	46.6
Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota	3	89	46	51.7	489	5.49	1	1.1	30	6	6.7	43.7


JOHN BIEVER

Rushing Leader: Franco Harris

CAREER RUSHING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	Yards	Attempts	Avg.	Long	TD
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	4	354	101	3.5	25	4
Larry Csonka, Miami	3	297	57	5.2	49	2
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	3	289	70	4.1	31	5
John Riggins, Washington	2	230	64	3.6	43t	2
Timmy Smith, Washington	1	204	22	9.3	58t	2
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	4	204	52	3.9	31t	4
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	198	52	3.8	18	2
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	1	191	20	9.6	74t	2
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	2	162	31	5.2	29	1
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	2	148	36	4.1	11	0
Kenneth Davis, Buffalo	4	145	30	4.8	14	0
Rocky Bleier, Pittsburgh	4	144	44	3.3	18	0
Walt Garrison, Dallas	2	139	26	5.3	19	0

CAREER RECEIVING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	3	28	512	18.2	44t	7
Andre Reed, Buffalo	4	27	323	12.0	40	0
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	20	212	10.6	40	2
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	4	20	144	7.2	24	0
Jay Novacek, Dallas	3	17	148	8.7	25	2
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	4	16	364	22.8	64t	3
Michael Irvin, Dallas	3	16	256	16.0	25	2
Chuck Foreman, Minnesota	3	15	139	9.3	26	0
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders	3	14	181	12.9	50	3
Don Beebe, Buffalo	3	12	171	14.2	43	2
Preston Pearson, Balt.-Pitt.-Dall.	5	12	105	8.8	14	0
Kenneth Davis, Buffalo	4	12	77	6.4	19	0
John Stallworth, Pittsburgh	4	11	268	24.4	75t	3
Dan Ross, Cincinnati	1	11	104	9.5	16	2

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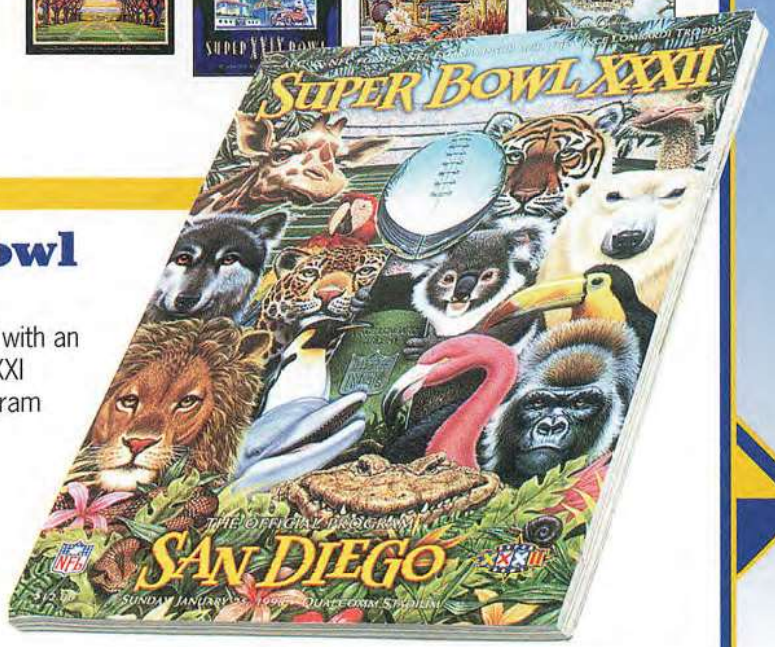

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XXVI	REDSKINS vs. BILLS
XXV	GIANTS vs. BILLS
XXIV	49ERS vs. BRONCOS
XXIII	49ERS vs. BENGALS
XXII	REDSKINS vs. BRONCOS
XXI	GIANTS vs. BRONCOS
XX*	BEARS vs. PATRIOTS

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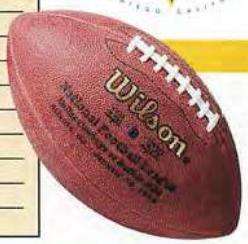

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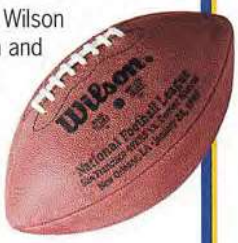

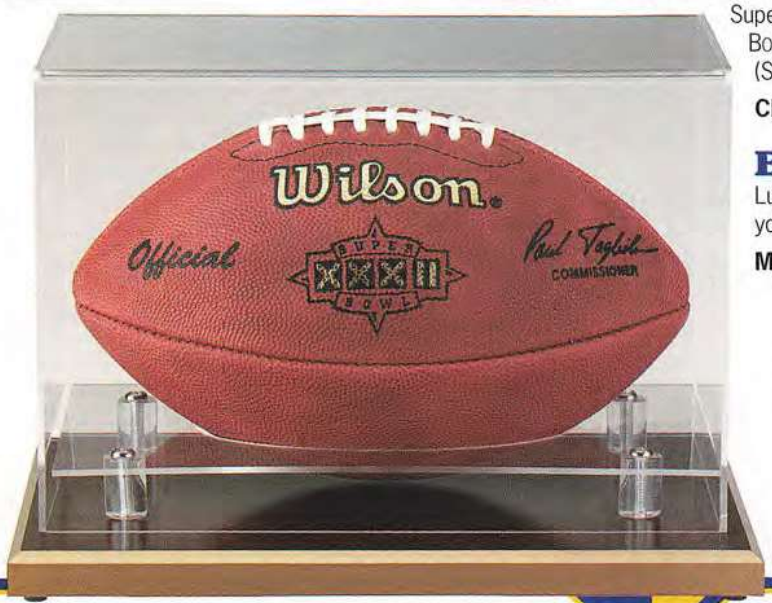

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Super Bowl XIV	Pittsburgh Steelers	Champion
Super Bowl XV	Oakland Raiders	Champion
Super Bowl XVI	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
Super Bowl XVII	Washington Redskins	Champion
Super Bowl XVIII	Los Angeles Raiders	Champion
Super Bowl XIX	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
Super Bowl XX	Chicago Bears	Champion
Super Bowl XXI	New York Giants	Champion
Super Bowl XXII	Washington Redskins	Champion
Super Bowl XXIII	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
Super Bowl XXIV	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
Super Bowl XXV	New York Giants	Champion
Super Bowl XXVI	Washington Redskins	Champion
Super Bowl XXVII	Dallas Cowboys	Champion
Super Bowl XXVIII	Dallas Cowboys	Champion
Super Bowl XXIX	San Francisco 49ers	Champion
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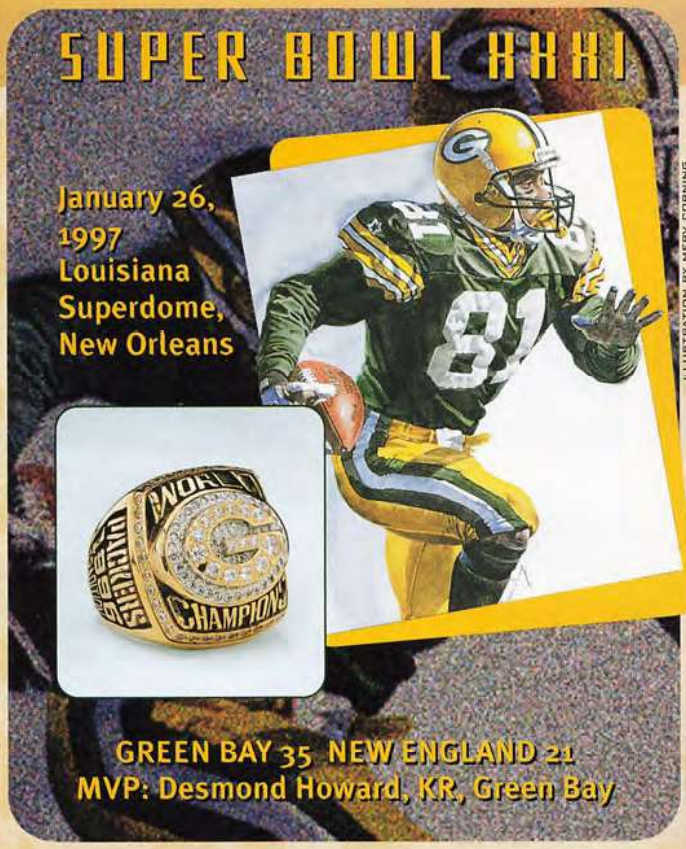
SUPER BOWL XXXI
January 26, 1997
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
GREEN BAY 35 NEW ENGLAND 21
MVP: Desmond Howard, KR, Green Bay

ILLUSTRATION BY MERV CORNING

Packers Are Among Ringleaders Again

Players practice, prepare, and play hard on Sundays because they want to reach the zenith of their profession…they want to be known as Super Bowl champions. Amid the lights and glamour, before a worldwide audience, players put their pride on the line. To be remembered forever as a Super Bowl champion is the best of all reasons to play in the NFL.

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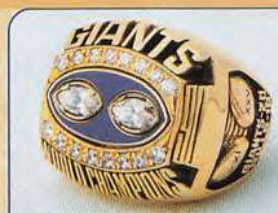
When the Green Bay Packers won Super Bowl XXXI, they claimed their first world championship since winning games I and II. The Super Bowl ring they earned last season is vastly different from their first two.

Following the 1966 season, the Packers defeated the AFL's Kansas City Chiefs to win Super Bowl I. The diamond in their ring was one karat, representative of the first Super Bowl. The top of the ring was designed to resemble a globe, inasmuch as the Packers were *world* champions.

Super Bowl II had three diamonds: a one karat in the middle, signifying victory in game II, and a half-karat on each side, one symbolizing Super Bowl I and the other the 1965 NFL championship. They were inlaid in green emerald.

The Super Bowl XXXI ring contains 115 diamonds, weighing 2.35 karats. The center of the ring has the Packers "G" with the word "World" above and "Champions" below. Each ring is inscribed with the player's name and jersey number, plus the team record. The design features the Packers' helmet and the word "Tradition." The 31 Super Bowl rings are shown here and on the following page.

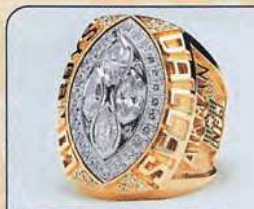
SUPER BOWL XXX
January 28, 1996
Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Arizona
DALLAS 27 PITTSBURGH 17
MVP: Larry Brown, CB, Dallas



SUPER BOWL XXV
January 27, 1991
Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida
N. Y. GIANTS 20 BUFFALO 19
MVP: Ottis Anderson, RB, New York

SUPER BOWL XXIX
January 29, 1995
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Florida
SAN FRANCISCO 49 SAN DIEGO 26
MVP: Steve Young, QB, San Francisco

SUPER BOWL XXIV
January 28, 1990
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
SAN FRANCISCO 55 DENVER 10
MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco



SUPER BOWL XXVIII
January 30, 1994
Georgia Dome, Atlanta, Georgia
DALLAS 30 BUFFALO 13
MVP: Emmitt Smith, RB, Dallas

SUPER BOWL XXIII
January 22, 1989
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Florida
SAN FRANCISCO 20 CINCINNATI 16
MVP: Jerry Rice, WR, San Francisco

SUPER BOWL XXVII
January 31, 1993
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
DALLAS 52 BUFFALO 17
MVP: Troy Aikman, QB, Dallas

SUPER BOWL XXII
January 31, 1988
San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego
WASHINGTON 42 DENVER 10
MVP: Doug Williams, QB, Washington

SUPER BOWL XXVI
January 26, 1992
Metrodome, Minneapolis
WASHINGTON 37 BUFFALO 24
MVP: Mark Rypien, QB, Washington

SUPER BOWL XXI
January 25, 1987
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
N.Y. GIANTS 39 DENVER 20
MVP: Phil Simms, QB, New York

Super Bowl XX

January 26, 1986
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
CHICAGO 46 NEW ENGLAND 10
MVP: Richard Dent, DE, Chicago

Super Bowl XV

January 25, 1981
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
OAKLAND 27 PHILADELPHIA 10
MVP: Jim Plunkett, QB, Oakland

Super Bowl X

January 18, 1976
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
PITTSBURGH 21 DALLAS 17
MVP: Lynn Swann, WR, Pittsburgh

Super Bowl V

January 17, 1971
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
BALTIMORE 16 DALLAS 13
MVP: Chuck Howley, LB, Dallas

Super Bowl XIX

January 20, 1985
Stanford Stadium, Stanford, California
SAN FRANCISCO 38 MIAMI 16
MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco

Super Bowl XIV

January 20, 1980
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
PITTSBURGH 31 LOS ANGELES 19
MVP: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh

Super Bowl IX

January 12, 1975
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, Louisiana
PITTSBURGH 16 MINNESOTA 6
MVP: Franco Harris, RB, Pittsburgh

Super Bowl IV

January 11, 1970
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, Louisiana
KANSAS CITY 23 MINNESOTA 7
MVP: Len Dawson, QB, Kansas City

Super Bowl XVIII

January 22, 1984
Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida
L.A. RAIDERS 38 WASHINGTON 9
MVP: Marcus Allen, RB, Los Angeles

Super Bowl XIII

January 21, 1979
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
PITTSBURGH 35 DALLAS 31
MVP: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh

Super Bowl VIII

January 13, 1974
Rice Stadium, Houston, Texas
MIAMI 24 MINNESOTA 7
MVP: Larry Csonka, RB, Miami

Super Bowl III

January 12, 1969
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
N.Y. JETS 16 BALTIMORE 7
MVP: Joe Namath, QB, New York

Super Bowl XVII

January 30, 1983
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
WASHINGTON 27 MIAMI 17
MVP: John Riggins, RB, Washington

Super Bowl XII

January 15, 1978
Superdome, New Orleans, Louisiana
DALLAS 27 DENVER 10
MVP: Randy White, DT, Dallas and
Harvey Martin, DE, Dallas

Super Bowl VII

January 14, 1973
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, California
MIAMI 14 WASHINGTON 7
MVP: Jake Scott, S, Miami

Super Bowl II

January 14, 1968
Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida
GREEN BAY 33 OAKLAND 14
MVP: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay

Super Bowl XVI

January 24, 1982
Pontiac Silverdome, Pontiac, Michigan
SAN FRANCISCO 26 CINCINNATI 21
MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco

Super Bowl XI

January 9, 1977
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
OAKLAND 32 MINNESOTA 14
MVP: Fred Biletnikoff, WR, Oakland

Super Bowl VI

January 16, 1972
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans, Louisiana
DALLAS 24 MIAMI 3
MVP: Roger Staubach, QB, Dallas

Super Bowl I

January 15, 1967
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, California
GREEN BAY 35 KANSAS CITY 10
MVP: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay

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HOW THE NFL WENT AIRBORNE

THE MODERN PASSING GAME EXAMINED

by Kevin Lamb

SPECIAL REPORT

Every pro football coach has his favorite plays. Each team has its own distinctive style. But there is no disputing one aspect of today's NFL: Offenses travel by air. The following 37 pages examine the whos, the whys, and the wheres of this unmistakable trend, and the remarkable impact that San Diego, this year's Super Bowl host city, has had on the evolution of the modern passing game.

STATISTICAL RESEARCH BY MATT MARINI

In the fourth game of his sixth season in Green Bay, Brett Favre broke the Packers' career record for touchdown passes. The record took Bart Starr 16 seasons to establish.

Of course, Starr and Favre played different games. Oh, they both played football, just as Tony Bennett and Mick Jagger both sing songs, but the style of pro football has changed since Starr's day. No longer can a team even think about trying to pass on just 31 percent of its plays, as Miami did in its undefeated 1972 season, one year after Starr retired. Favre's Super Bowl-champion Packers used pass plays 56 percent of the time last season, even though they allowed the fewest points in the league and spent much of their 13-3 season protecting leads.

When Starr played, the best teams passed just often enough to take the lead. They stayed ahead with running plays that were low in risk and high in time consumption. In Favre's era, the best teams keep their leads by adding to them with more pass plays. Only 2 of the 24 playoff teams in 1995 and 1996 called more runs than pass plays.

No matter how much lip service coaches give to establishing the run, they've made passing the cornerstone of NFL offenses. Thanks to changes in rules, philosophies, and playbooks, passing isn't as risky anymore. In fact, the bigger risk is to stop passing.

"Teams are still striving for balance in their offense, but I would think now it means to have some kind of a running game so the defense can't just play the pass all the time," says Don Shula, who coached both that undefeated Miami team and the Dan Marino-led 1984 squad that holds the record for most passing yards in a season.

"Instead of running to set up the pass, now we throw to get the running game going," says Sid Gillman, the coach whose explosive San Diego teams of the 1960s often are considered the forebears of current passing philosophy. "Teams used to run a hell of a lot on first down, but now, everybody's passing on any down."

It is easy to pinpoint the catalyst in pro football's transition from grinding it out to airing it out. Before the 1978 season, the NFL made two significant rules changes. A less-restrictive definition of offensive holding made pass rushing more difficult, and new restrictions on defenders' contact downfield complicated pass coverage. That did a lot to neutralize pass defense.

Don Coryell's Chargers were the first team to exploit the changes, and in 1979 Dan Fouts became the second player in NFL history to pass for 4,000 yards in a season. Two years later, Fouts averaged 300 yards a game for Air Coryell, one of only three times that has happened in a full season.

But most of the passing numbers that seemed so impressive more than 15 years ago look as quaintly dated today as propeller-driven airplanes. Passers had registered 4,000-yard seasons 31 times through last season, and 15 of them came in the 1990s. Receivers caught 100 or more passes 15 times in the three seasons before this one, something that happened only three times before 1990.

Passing has grown more efficient since those 1978 rules changes, forcing defenses to devote more resources to rushing the passer, which has caused offenses to find even quicker and more efficient passing tactics in a tightly spiraling trend that just completed its twentieth season. "The defense always will catch up to the offense—it has been that way historically," says former Dallas general manager Tex Schramm, who co-chaired the 1978 competition committee with Shula. But the climate of offensive creativity that those rules ignited has been one step ahead of every defensive adjustment, from eight-man coverages to blitzing eight-man fronts to the recent zone blitz.

Offensive responses have included the West Coast offense, with its short passes for long gains; the one-back offense, with its kaleidoscope of formations and spread-out patterns; and personnel packaging that has ranged from waves of substitutions to no-huddle attacks. In varying ways, the proliferation of passing attacks also has been aided by free agency's greater roster turnover, higher salaries, expanded coaching staffs, more offseason workouts, and even louder crowds.

Recent quarterbacks' statistical accomplishments have left even passers enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in

EVERY PASS PLAY HAS A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY, FROM THE TIME THE RECEIVERS GET OPEN UNTIL THE PASS RUSH REACHES THE QUARTERBACK.

their dust. Twenty quarterbacks in the Hall of Fame played in the post-1932 era of official NFL statistics, and only Fouts—the sole significant beneficiary of the 1978 rules—had a career completion percentage better than the NFL's 1996 league-wide average of 57.6. Only Roger Staubach, Sonny Jurgensen, Len Dawson, and Fran Tarkenton had better touchdown-to-interception ratios than the 1.16-to-1 that was average in 1996.

This past season started with 14 active NFL quarterbacks in possession of career passer ratings of at least 79.0. Besides Steve Young, Dan Marino, Warren Moon, Troy Aikman, and Favre, they included Jeff Hostetler, Dave Krieg, Neil O'Donnell, Scott Mitchell, Jeff Blake, Mark Rypien, Erik Kramer, Boomer Esiason, and Jim Everett.

Six Hall of Fame members have career ratings that high. Johnny Unitas, the long-time standard for passing excellence, is not among them.

Only three playoff teams in the 1970s had more pass plays than running plays, and only one from 1970-77. That equates to 3.6 percent. From 1983-1996, more than two-thirds (67.5 percent) of playoff teams had a majority of passing plays, and the figure was 76.2 percent for 1990-96.

The league as a whole had more runs than pass plays every season in the 1970s, dropping as low as 42.3 percent pass plays in 1977 and below 45 percent in 5 of the 10 years. It hasn't been below 50 percent since 1980, nor below 54 percent since 1989. In 1995, 57.4 percent of all plays were pass plays—up 15 percent from 1977.

The NFL had periods of relatively high passing numbers before 1980, certainly. "People might be surprised that there was a book written at the end of the 1940s called *Fly T Football* by Hamp Pool, the Rams' coach," Giants general manager George Young says, "and he has all these drawings that don't have a tight end." At that same time, Shula remembers, he was growing up and rooting for the Cleveland Browns, who showcased Otto Graham throwing to Dante Lavelli, Mac Speedie, and Dub Jones.

Those Browns, coached by Paul Brown, dominated the All-America Football Conference and joined the NFL in 1950 with a much-ballyhooed, season-opening Saturday night game against the defending-champion Eagles. The Browns won 35-10, and Brown's son, Cincinnati general manager Mike Brown, recalls that Philadelphia coach "Greasy Neale complained that all the Browns did was pass and trap. They should play basketball." People said the same sort of things about Coryell 30 years later.

In fact, the 1950s and 1960s were the golden age of passing in terms of yardage per pass play, a number that gives equal weight to passing frequency and yardage gained. In those 20 years, only 3 of 30 league leaders—counting the AFL and NFL in the 1960s—averaged fewer than 8 yards per pass play, and 7 averaged more than 9. The NFL has had only two teams surpass 9 yards per pass play since 1969, and in the first seven years of the pass-happy 1990s, 7 of the 14 conference champions averaged fewer than 11 yards per pass.

But when the rules makers acted in 1978, NFL passing was in its sorriest state since World War II. The league-wide average of 17.2 points per team per game in 1977 was the lowest since 1942, and only six players surpassed 50 receptions. (In 1995, nine players surpassed 100 receptions.) The 1976 rate of 9.1 sacks per 100 pass plays was an all-time high.

"The name of the game was to play defense until you got a break, and then kick a field goal," Schramm says.

Every pass play has a window of opportunity, from the time the receivers get open until the pass rush reaches the quarterback. Defenses had closed the window to a peephole by beating up on receivers from the time they left the line of scrimmage and bowling over pass blockers who were required to keep their hands in front of their chests and their elbows out.

The revised rules helped receivers by prohibiting defenders from making contact more than 5 yards downfield. They helped pass blockers by letting them extend their arms, spread their arms as wide as the defender's shoulders, and open their hands. Earlier, in 1977, they also had prohibited pass rushers from pounding on blockers' helmets, a technique that often had offensive linemen "looking for the telephone to see who's calling," former Kansas City coach Hank Stram says.

"Those things really tilted the balance well in favor of the offense and the passing game," says Bill Polian, Carolina's general manager and the architect of Buffalo's Super Bowl teams. "Those changes gave rise to the West Coast offense and other forms of the passing game that really weren't practical before."

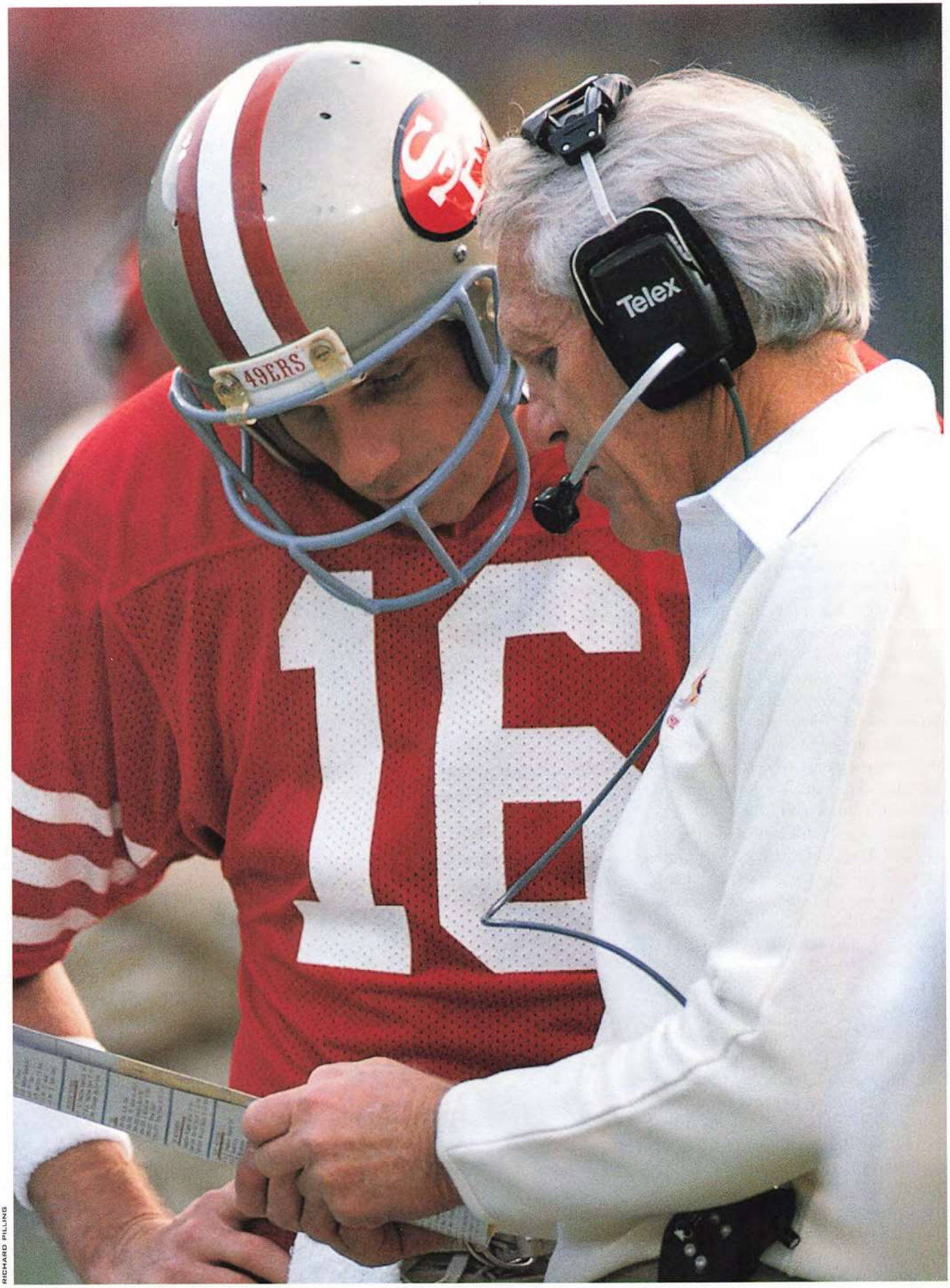
The AFL had been a breeding ground for bump-and-run pass coverage, says Stram, largely because Oakland coach and general manager Al Davis patterned the concept after a full-court press in basketball. "You couldn't get your wide receivers off the line," Stram says. Even if the receiver got past the cornerback at the line, there was a tag-team safety waiting to continue the pummeling in the double-zone coverages that helped make Miami's and Pittsburgh's defenses so stingy in the 1970s.

"That took away the crossing routes because the linebackers simply clotheslined receivers and knocked them over," Polian says. "The West Coast offense is built largely on crossing routes."

So the new 5-yard contact rule gave receivers "access to the playing field," as former 49ers coach Bill Walsh put it. "You can get receivers across the field, to the far side of the field, and you can count on doing that," he says. "Before, they'd never get there."

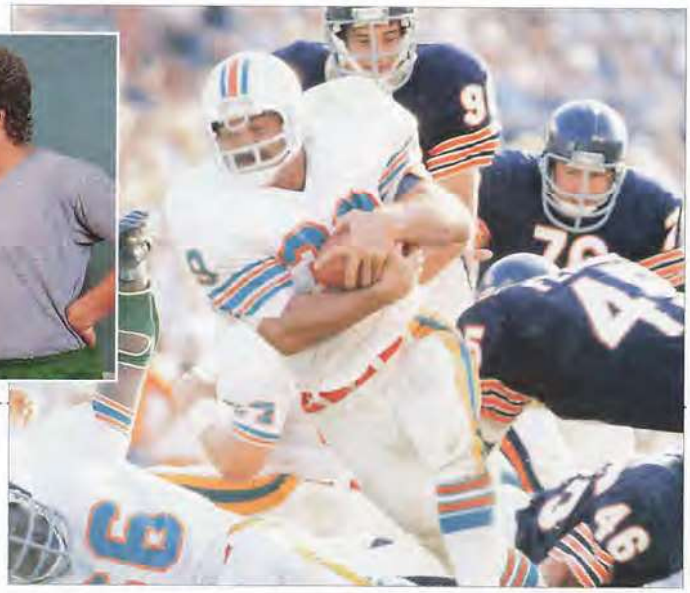
The 49ers' pass patterns were timed, Walsh says, to one-tenth of a second. They coordinated the split, or width, of the wide receiver with the length of his route and the depth of the quarterback's drop.

Walsh would work for hours with a quarterback just on the



RICHARD PILLING

Perfectionists: *Bill Walsh's scheme and Joe Montana's arm turned the 49ers into a formidable passing machine.*



If You Can't Beat 'Em... *The Miami Dolphins relied on the running of Larry Csonka (near left) when they ruled the AFC in the early 1970s. A decade later, coach Don Shula and quarterback Dan Marino (far left) unleashed an aerial attack that was the equal of any in the league.*

MANNY RUBIO

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

mechanics of his drop, so he could release the ball the instant he planted his back foot. If the receiver was not open, the quarterback was to bounce in place, so the pass rush never had a stationary target.

The 49ers also kept their receivers closer to the ball, in tighter splits, than most teams. That adjustment made the timing a little quicker and also enabled receivers to attack an area as a group in the crossing routes. When two receivers ran routes that crossed paths, one of them might get in the way of the other's defender, or "pick" him, as described in basketball terminology.

Picks are illegal, but they rarely are blatant enough to call. They never were an issue before downfield contact was limited. "That's because the receivers going across the middle were getting clotheslined," Polian says.

Walsh wasn't the first coach to build an offense around safe, short passes. Fran Tarkenton and Joe Kapp threw a lot of what Bud Grant called "off-tackle passes" for the Vikings in the 1960s, and Ted Marchibroda kept Baltimore Colts running backs at the top of the AFC reception leader boards in the 1970s. But Walsh had a lot of short passes going to outside receivers, and he had the help of the rules.

The 49ers won five Super Bowls from the 1981-1994 seasons, including two under Walsh's successor, George Seifert. By the 1990s, nearly half of all NFL teams had hired head coaches or offensive coordinators that had worked on the 49ers' staff. One of them, Mike Holmgren, led the Packers to the championship last season.

"Bill understood that with the new rules, it was much easier to throw a five-yard pass than it was to get a five-yard run, and it was certainly easier to get an eight- or nine-yard pass that was a high percentage pass," Polian says. "He invented a system whereby if you got the ball out of the quarterback's hand on time, and the route was run properly, it is almost impossible not to complete much less get intercepted.

"So everybody realized that you could throw high-percentage passes, increase the amount of completions, decrease the amount of turnovers and sacks, and increase the yardage via runs after the catch. Well, who wouldn't do that? You'd have to be half an idiot not to emulate that."

In the 1970s, average yards gained per completion in the NFL were fewer than 12.6 only once. The figure stayed between 12.4 and 12.9 in the 1980s, but it dropped to 12.01 in 1991 and hasn't been that high since. The West Coast offense has become known for long runs after short passes, but those are not the norm. Because of Walsh's success and the rules' encouragement, interceptions and incompletions have gone down, along with average gain per catch.

On average, NFL teams haven't completed less than 55 percent of their passes since 1988, and they didn't complete more than 52.5 percent from 1970 until the major rules changes. They never had more touchdowns than interceptions until 1984. Interceptions outnumbered touchdowns only once since 1986.

"You're throwing far more high-percentage passes now," Polian says, "so an interception results almost only when you throw into coverage or the defensive back somehow jumps the route and wins the mental battle. In the old days when the receivers could be knocked off, sometimes the ball would be out there and the receiver would be on the ground."

In the 1970s, when Coryell was the head coach at St. Louis and Walsh was coaching under Paul Brown in Cincin-

WINNERS PREFER THE PASS

Pass plays increasingly have become the most important part of the formula for victory. In 1970, only two of the NFL's teams with winning records passed more often than they ran. In 1995, every winning team favored pass plays over running plays:

nati, they belonged to a small fraternity of coaches who were willing to concentrate on passing attacks. That gave them an edge in an area in which few teams excelled, but a team really had to work at a passing game. Few coaches, Walsh says, were willing to invest in the longer meetings and practices that it required.

"When you finally get down to it, football is all a game of percentages," Schramm says. "Back in the seventies, the odds for the passing game weren't good. Now it's a more high-percentage type of game."

Walsh's success in 1981 was the passing game's best sales pitch. The 49ers won the Super Bowl after going an NFL-worst 10-38 the previous three seasons, and they did it with a running game that ranked nineteenth in total yards and last in yards per carry. Walsh believed that running backs either were great or they weren't, and there wasn't much a coach could do about it. But passers and receivers could be taught what to look for and how to respond in a successful passing game.

In the 1980s, quarterback coaches went from being luxuries to necessities, like cellular phones and answering machines. Increased coaching control has become one of the biggest changes in football because of the increased number of players used through substitutions. Free agency also has led to higher roster turnover, Young says, and from watching Pro Bowl games he can see that it is easier to assemble a passing game than a running game with new people.

"The defenses are so much more sophisticated now," Shula says, reflecting on the time when Larry Csonka and Mercury Morris gave him a tandem of 1,000-yard running backs. "It's tough to just jam it in there."

Shula points to the two-pronged impact of year-round programs. The physical training creates athletes who are bigger, faster, and stronger, and therefore harder to move on run blocks than to maneuver with pass routes. And when players work 12 months instead of 6 with film and playbooks, defensive coaches can put in more intricate twists to confound the running game.

If that's not enough to hurt the running game, Young brings up the increased crowd noise, especially when a road team gets inside the opponent's 20. A team that can't hear the snap count is not going to be much of a running team, he says.

Almost by accident, defenses that were built for blitzing passers in the 1980s turned out to be even more effective against the run. They used eight men near the line of scrim-

RATING THE QUARTERBACKS

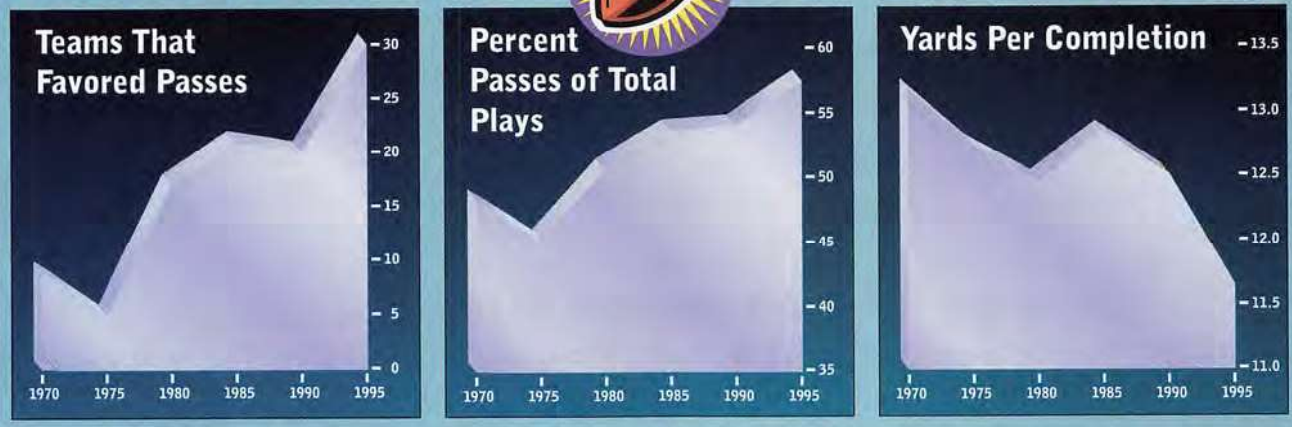
Revised rules and new passing philosophies have enabled many modern-day quarterbacks to compile passer ratings far surpassing those of their predecessors, including the 20 quarterbacks who played after 1932 and are already enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame (indicated in bold type).

(Totals are through the 1996 season.)

QUARTERBACK	ATT.	COMP.	COMP. PCT.	YARDS	AVG. GAIN	TD	INT	RATING
Steve Young	3,192	2,059	64.5	25,479	7.98	174	85	96.2
Joe Montana	5,391	3,409	63.2	40,551	7.52	273	139	92.3
Brett Favre	2,693	1,667	61.9	18,724	6.95	147	79	88.6
Dan Marino	6,904	4,134	59.9	51,636	7.48	369	209	88.3
Jim Kelly	4,779	2,874	60.1	35,467	7.42	237	175	84.4
Roger Staubach	2,958	1,685	57.0	22,700	7.67	153	109	83.4
Troy Aikman	3,178	2,000	62.9	22,733	7.15	110	98	83.0
Sonny Jurgensen	4,262	2,433	57.1	32,224	7.56	255	189	82.6
Len Dawson	3,741	2,136	57.1	28,711	7.67	239	183	82.6
Warren Moon	6,000	3,514	58.6	43,787	7.30	254	208	81.0
Bart Starr	3,149	1,808	57.4	24,718	7.82	152	138	80.5
Fran Tarkenton	6,467	3,686	57.0	47,003	7.27	342	266	80.4
Dan Fouts	5,604	3,297	58.8	43,040	7.68	254	242	80.2
John Elway	6,392	3,633	56.8	45,034	7.05	251	205	78.5
Otto Graham*	1,565	872	55.7	13,499	8.63	88	94	78.2
Johnny Unitas	5,186	2,830	54.6	40,239	7.76	290	253	78.2
Bob Griese	3,429	1,926	56.2	25,092	7.32	192	172	77.1
Norm Van Brocklin	2,895	1,553	53.6	23,611	8.16	173	178	75.1
Sid Luckman	1,744	904	51.8	14,686	8.42	137	132	75.0
Y.A. Tittle*	3,817	2,118	55.5	28,339	7.42	212	221	73.6
Sammy Baugh	2,995	1,693	56.5	21,886	7.31	187	203	72.2
Terry Bradshaw	3,901	2,025	51.9	27,989	7.17	212	210	70.9
Joe Namath	3,762	1,886	50.1	27,663	7.35	173	220	65.5
Bobby Layne	3,700	1,814	49.2	26,768	7.23	196	243	63.4
Bob Waterfield	1,617	814	50.3	11,849	7.33	97	128	61.6
George Blanda	4,007	1,911	47.7	26,920	6.72	236	277	60.6
Arnie Herber	1,175	481	40.9	8,041	6.84	81	106	50.1
Ace Parker	603	273	45.3	3,935	6.53	22	47	46.7

*NFL totals only

PASSING MORE RISKING LESS



The number of teams that use pass plays more often than running plays—and the percentage of pass plays as a whole—increased dramatically during the last three decades, at least in part because the passing attempts are of a shorter and safer variety. Note how the average yards per completion has decreased in the sample years used.

Number of teams in the league: 1970-75, 26; 1980-90, 28; 1995, 30.

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mage instead of the standard seven linemen and linebackers. A team with two wide receivers only has seven blockers for a running play.

The initial effort to counter the rules-aided passing attacks was to drop eight players in coverage behind a three-man defensive line. The strategy was almost unanimous after the 1979 season, when the Rams used such an alignment to stun the heavily favored Cowboys in the playoffs leading to Super Bowl XIV. If blockers were going to hold up a pass rush, defensive coordinators reasoned, then pass defenders had better blanket the secondary.

JIM CHAFFIN

One-Back Attack: *When defenses began putting extra pressure on the passer, the Redskins countered with a one-back set that afforded better protection.*

"Of course, Coryell and San Diego ruined that for everybody," says Tom Landry, Dallas's long-time coach. "So the next thing defenses did was get a good, fast-moving linebacker in there and let him rush. They forced that tackle out there to handle a fast-moving linebacker, and he couldn't get out quick enough to do it."

The prototype pass-rushing linebacker was the Giants' Lawrence Taylor, whom Young says would probably play defensive end in the four man lines nearly every team uses today. It is the same position played in recent years by the Cowboys' Charles Haley or the 49ers' Kevin Greene. In fact, Haley and Greene began their careers playing the linebacker position pioneered by Taylor.

In Taylor's rookie season, 1981, division-rival Washington hired Joe Gibbs off Coryell's staff in San Diego. An aspect of Coryell's offense had been the use of one back and two tight ends, confounding defenses that weren't set up for four receivers at the line of scrimmage. A one-back offense didn't even necessarily have a strongside and a weakside. Gibbs said he decided to use a one-back lineup because it gave him an extra tight end to help his tackle block Taylor.

The 1982 Redskins, in winning Super Bowl XVII, showed how the one-back offense could overpower teams as well as outflank them. Even with the Hogs, the Redskins' outstanding offensive line, up front and John Riggins running, they had a fearsome passing attack. Washington reversed the classic formula of using the run to establish the pass. It jabbed with the pass, wearing out a defense that was forced to rush the passer, and then buried the opponent with Riggins's running.

Where Walsh kept his receivers close to the ball, Gibbs and Coryell and other one-back coaches preferred spreading them out across the field, making the defense cover more space and forcing more one-on-one matchups. They also moved players around in dozens of formations, so a defense couldn't get an idea what play was coming by the way the offense lined up.

"It's a game of looks now," Gillman says. "We used to line up in one formation and run a lot of different plays from it. It isn't the number of plays anymore, but the number of formations. You can take one running play or one pass pattern and run it out of God-knows-how-many formations and it looks like different plays."

A one-back offense—no longer committed to a halfback, fullback, tight end, and two wide receivers—lent itself well to situation substitution in which those five spots were manned by players of various positions. The notion of substitutions that depended on down and distance dated back at least to Shula's Dolphins of the early 1970s, when Jim Kiick replaced Morris on passing downs, and it evolved gradually until both offenses and defenses were sending in new units for practically every play.

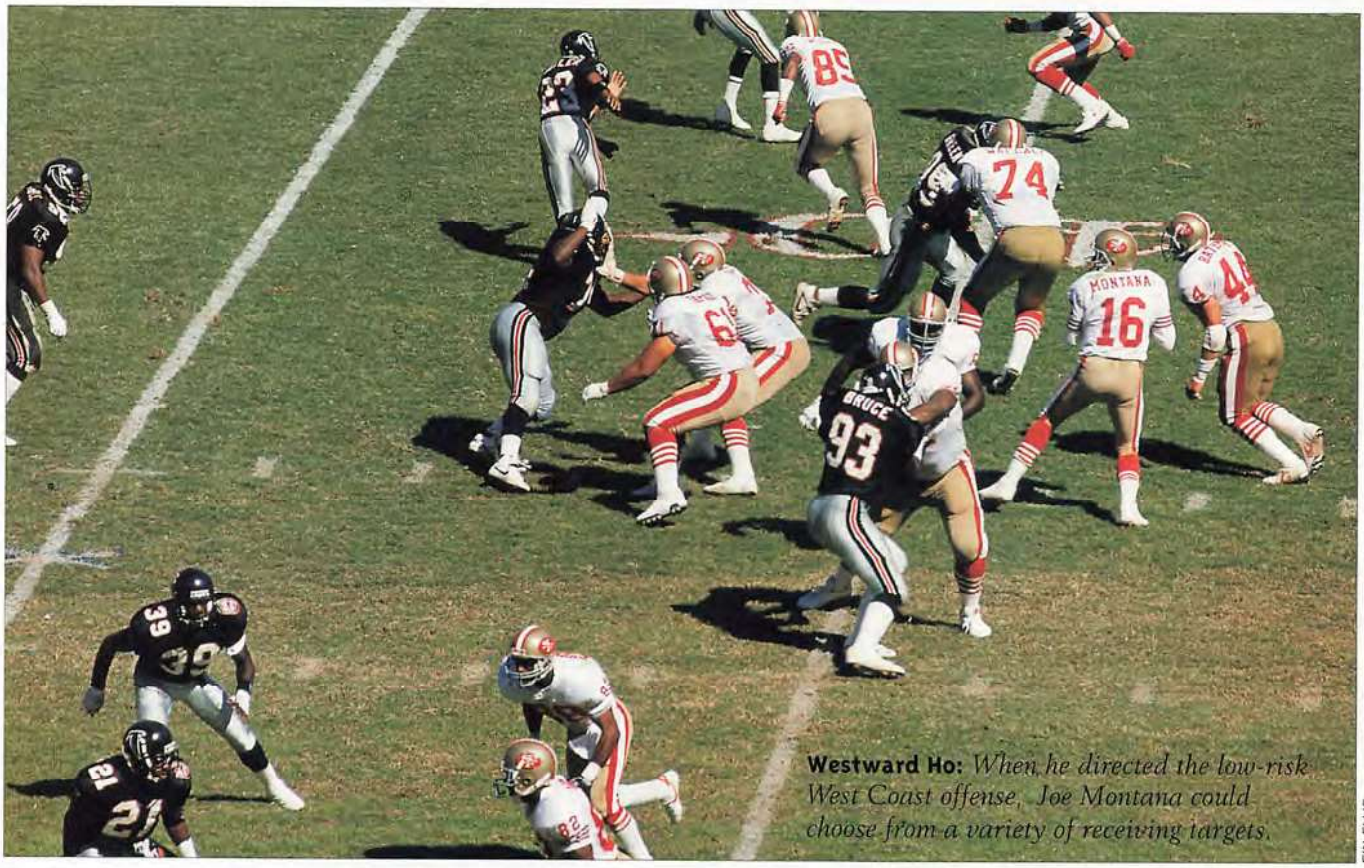
> THE 1982 REDSKINS, IN WINNING SUPER BOWL XVII, SHOWED HOW THE ONE-BACK OFFENSE COULD OVERPOWER TEAMS AS WELL AS OUTFLANK THEM.

"The situation substitution tilted very heavily in favor of the offense for a while because it created matchups the defense couldn't handle," Polian says. When defenses caught up by sending in matching substitutions, some offenses went without a huddle to keep specialized defenders on the sideline.

Miami scored its first touchdown in Super Bowl XIX without huddling against a San Francisco defense that was accustomed to rotating 19 players. Later, the No-Huddle offense became the mainstay for Cincinnati and Buffalo, the AFC's Super Bowl representatives for five of six seasons from 1988-1993. "It put pressure on defenses, it spread them out all over the place, and it made the game go at a much faster tempo and chewed up huge

"OUR GAME GOES IN CYCLES. WHEN THE DEFENSE STARTS TO STOP ONE THING, IT OPENS UP SOMETHING ELSE. IT'S CONSTANTLY EVOLVING."

–GEORGE YOUNG, GIANTS GENERAL MANAGER



Westward Ho: *When he directed the low-risk West Coast offense, Joe Montana could choose from a variety of receiving targets.*

GIN ELLIS

chunks of yardage," Polian says. "Like the West Coast offense, it had a very effective running game because people had to react to the threat of the pass."

Gibbs unveiled his one-back offense when the Redskins were 0-5 in 1981. They ran for 227 yards and beat Chicago, 24-7. Two weeks later, when San Diego came to Chicago, the Bears had learned their lesson. They used their 46 defense, with four linemen and four linebackers, for nearly the whole game as they defeated the Chargers 20-17 in overtime.

With this innovation, the defense had two strongsides, too. Tight end Kellen Winslow, an outstanding receiver who ordinarily went in motion before the snap, was forced to stay back to block the extra man up front. Fouts had one of his worst days statistically as a pro. Cincinnati then studied the film, and used the same defense to beat San Diego twice—first to earn the home field in the playoffs and, later, in the AFC Championship Game.

The 46 defense was ideally suited for blitzing. With its eighth player near the line, it could send pass rushers from various angles and still drop enough players into coverage. Not that the Bears needed to. They rushed the passer so well that even Walsh's quick-passing team was unable to connect with receivers before the pocket collapsed. The 1985 Bears went 15-1 and won Super Bowl XX. They demolished their three post-season opponents by a combined 91-10. The blitz was back.

It hasn't lost favor since. "There's more blitzing than ever now," Cincinnati's Mike Brown says. The zone blitz, popularized by Pittsburgh's 1995 AFC champions, made sending linebackers a safer tactic because defensive linemen dropped into short zones to supply pass coverage. Because the offense didn't know which players would be in the pass rush, blockers often were confused, says Polian, whose 1996 Panthers utilized a zone blitz in advancing to the NFC Championship Game in the franchise's second season.

Again, offenses were pressured to make their pass plays quicker and shorter. "Timing routes, quick routes do a better job of defeating it," Polian says, "because it's harder for the blitzers to get to the passer." Another response to the zone blitz this season was a resurgence of NFL running games.

"Our game goes in cycles," Young says. "When the defense starts to stop one thing, it opens up something else. It's constantly evolving."

So the passing game continues to ebb and flow. But it is not likely to return to where it was three decades ago. The rules have been handy tools, and the coaching innovators have rewritten NFL playbooks.

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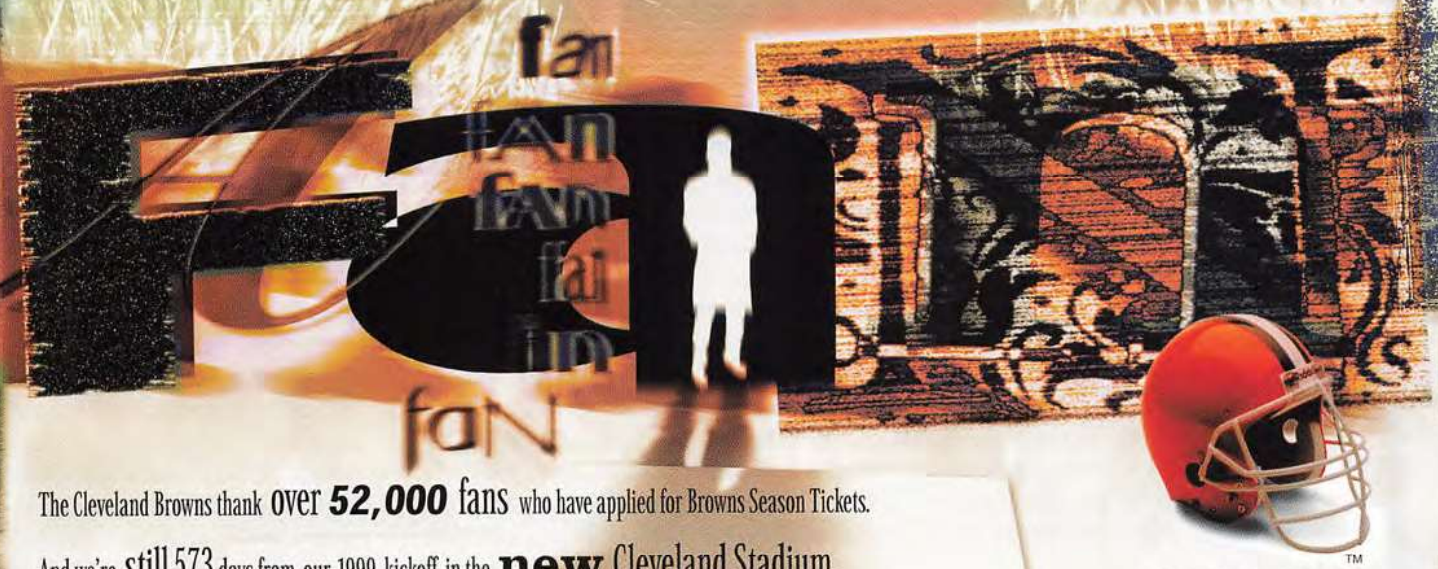

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TO AIR WAS DIVINE

Sid Gillman, Father of the Passing Game, Laid the Foundation for All Who Followed

Some 20 miles north of San Diego, on the bubble of a cul-de-sac in that vaguely southwestern, four-star resort called La Costa, a gnarled finger slowly stalks an orange switch and flips it to the "on" position. A television monitor suddenly is animated by a football game, the San Francisco 49ers driving against the St. Louis Rams.

"You see these two deep defenders, with the corner guys up on the line?" asks the chummy old man armed with a remote control. "You've gotta attack the two-deep. As soon as we see this defense, someone's going up the middle, or on a post—or both."

At age 86, when most men would be content to relax at home and surf television channels with the remote control, Sid Gillman stands apart. Oh, he watches TV all right, but his mind is racing as he watches, his hand busily scratching routes on preprinted sheets of standard NFL formations. "Sometime I need to add these to my notebooks," he says, pointing to a four-inch stack of loose papers.

Gillman is pleased. He recently discovered that he can activate his entire video setup—state-of-the-art Sony Betacam DT, Panasonic VHS, and 24-inch Sony monitor—at once, by using a single switch on his surge protector.

That's the Father of the Passing Game, always innovating.

Who says Gillman is Father of the Passing Game? Bill Walsh does. So does Al Davis, and practically anyone else who has a studied opinion on the subject—including Gillman.

"The West Coast offense almost started right here in San Diego," he says.

He's talking about the Chargers of the early 1960s, and few would contradict the boast. But Gillman's pioneering contributions aren't confined to the squares, circles, and triangles on the chalkboard. He was the first football coach who regularly used film to grade his players (in the 1940s). He helped invent the two-platoon system of offense and defense (at West Point in 1948; with no time outs available, Army used a "designated injured man" to stop the clock). He was the first to room white players with black players (in 1960). He hired pro football's first full-time film man (Mickey Dukich in 1956) and its first full-time strength coach (Alvin Roy in 1964).

During more than half a century in the profession, there wasn't much that Sid Gillman didn't think of. He is the Thomas Alva Edison of football, and the men who shared his laboratory went on to achieve some renown of their own: Al Davis and Chuck Noll, Bum Phillips and George Allen, Jack Faulkner and Tom Bass, Ara Parseghian and Paul Dietzel. His principles radiated outward like shockwaves from an epicenter, across an unstable landscape of football. He knew Paul Brown when Brown was walking the sidelines at Massillon (Ohio) High School. He recommended another young prep coach, Vince Lombardi, for the position Gillman vacated at Army. He allowed Joe Gibbs, an anonymous assistant at San Diego State, to spy on his Chargers practices.

WHO SAYS GILLMAN IS FATHER OF THE PASSING GAME? BILL WALSH DOES. SO DOES AL DAVIS, AND PRACTICALLY ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS A STUDIED OPINION ON THE SUBJECT—INCLUDING GILLMAN.

"Every modern offensive coach has begged, borrowed, and stolen from Sid Gillman," Chiefs president Carl Peterson says. "Everyone in our business grew up watching this guy."

Gillman grew up in Minneapolis, but his football roots are in Ohio. He was a player of some renown at Ohio State, a two-way end good enough to play for the collegiate all-stars in the very first Chicago College All-Star Game in 1935. One of his teammates was Beattie Feathers, who would soon become the NFL's first 1,000-yard rusher. ("He lost the damned game for us," Gillman says, unable to forget the 0-0 tie. "Fumbled twice.")

Gillman spent 20 years coaching at the campuses of Denison, Ohio State, Miami of Ohio, and Cincinnati, moving up the ranks in predictable increments and refining his strategies.

By Phil Barber

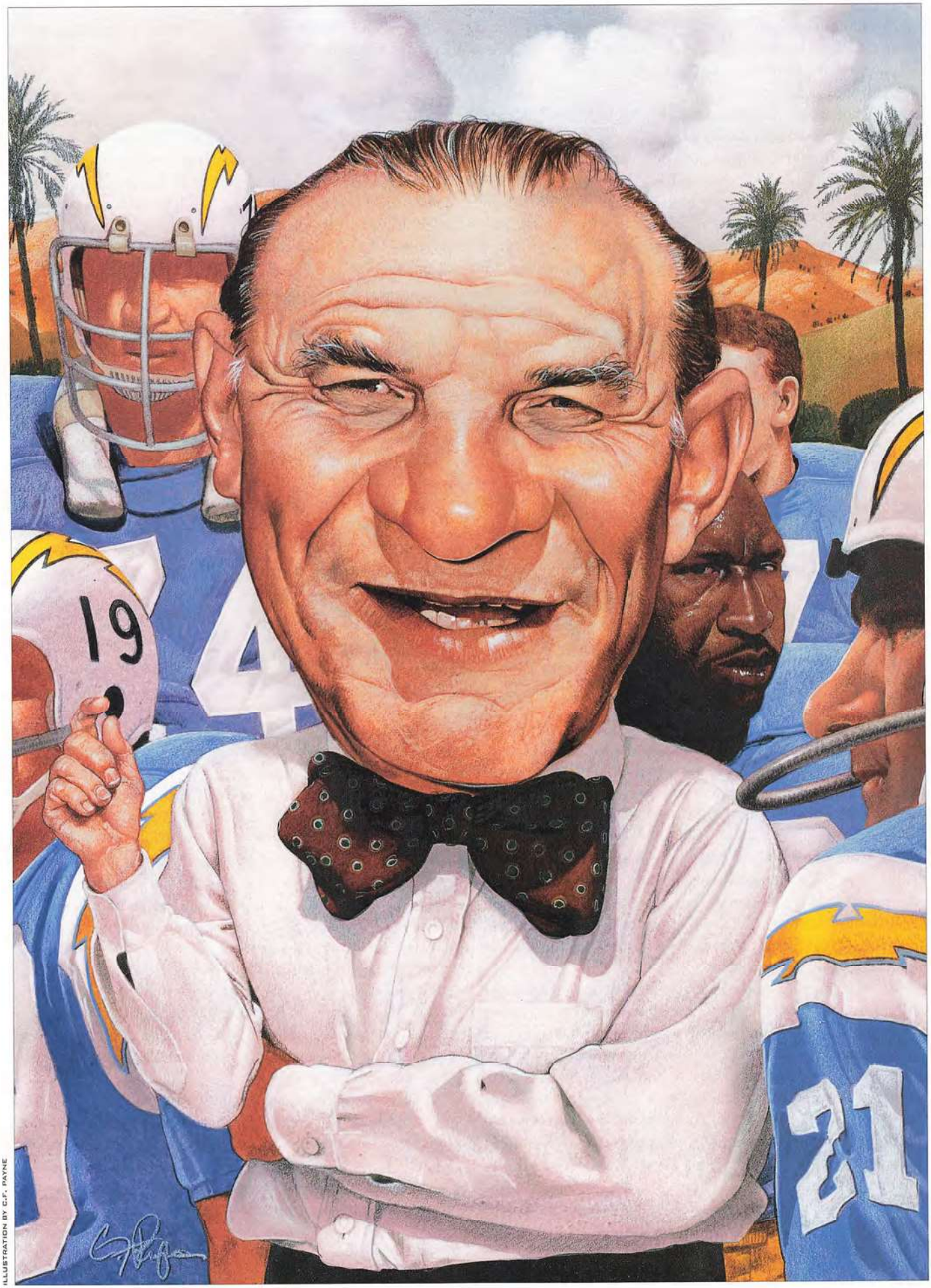

ILLUSTRATION BY C.F. PAYNE

From Francis Schmidt, his mentor at Ohio State, Gillman learned two of the things that would define him for decades:

(1) how to work like a beast, and

(2) how to lace a bow tie.

He always was looking for an edge, which is one of the reasons he became obsessed with film.

It was a natural fit. Gillman's father owned a chain of Minneapolis movie theaters when Sid started into football, and anytime Army versus Navy or Notre Dame versus Michigan showed up on one of the Paramount newsreels, the staff would say, "Well, that's for Sid," and snip off the tail. They helped him splice together reels, which Gillman watched after hours, battling the occasional celluloid fire.

Before long Gillman was filming practices and games, grading his players at the University of Cincinnati. Dukich later did it for him in Los Angeles, chopping up Rams action and reassembling it by position and play. They used Polaroid film for on-the-spot halftime analysis.

It all sounds as standard as unleaded gas today, but for years Gillman's Rams were the only team doing it.

Opponents weren't required to exchange game film in those days, either, which made advance scouting a nervous mixture of guesswork and cloak-and-dagger intrigue. One of the more extreme episodes involved Jack Faulkner. A career football man, Faulkner is now the Rams' administrator of pro personnel, but in 1949 he was a first-year assistant at Cincinnati. Sid Gillman was the head coach, and he was fretting about the team's home opener against the University of Nevada.

He was so concerned, in fact, that he dispatched Faulkner to Reno to enroll in school and join the football team under an assumed name. After five days of practice, Faulkner—or Farmer, or Falk, or whatever he called himself—simply disappeared. The crime might have gone undetected had the merchants of Cincinnati not loyally tacked up posters honoring the Bearcats' coaching staff. Someone on the Nevada side spotted a photograph in which Faulkner's visage was all-too recognizable, and Faulkner spent game day holed up in the press box (Nevada won 41-21).

On the field, Gillman gradually built a reputation for inspired football. His first NFL team, the 1955 Los Angeles Rams, advanced as far as the league championship game before falling to the powerful Cleveland Browns.

VIC STEIN

Leader and Disciples: *The coaches who worked under Sid Gillman, including (from left) Joe Madro, Chuck Noll, Jack Faulkner, and Al Davis, marveled at his many offensive innovations.*

And when Gillman assumed control of the brand-new Los Angeles Chargers of the brand-new American Football League in 1960, he quickly assembled one of the most entertaining teams in football history. Those Chargers (they moved to San Diego in 1961) won five Western Conference/Division titles in six years. They lost four AFL Championship Games, too, but they beat Boston 51-10 in the 1963 game, at decrepit Balboa Stadium. Gillman's game plan was masterful in that contest, and San Diego sliced up the Patriots for 610 yards of total offense (still a postseason record).

A lot of people thought the Chargers were the best team in football in 1963. Gillman was one of them: The rings he ordered after the season read "World Champions." Flush with victory, he called Pete Rozelle and suggested a decisive championship against the Chicago Bears.

"You know, the reason Pope John XXIII is so famous is because he recognized the other league," Gillman told the NFL Commissioner, referring to the Vatican II Ecumenical Council.

"I agree," Rozelle is said to have replied. "But remember, it took 'em two thousand years."

Those Chargers teams presented the Gillman system at its most withering: the receivers split wide (always outside the numbers), making quick reads off the line; the five passing lanes filled to stretch the defense; the quarterback scanned the secondary for the "best-located safety"; the tight end and backs were heavily involved in the passing game; and the scoreboard spun like a slot machine. Nowadays, teams are doing it from San Francisco to Philadelphia, but before Gillman it was fringe football.

"No question, he was the master of using the field, sideline to sideline," says Raiders owner Davis, who got his professional start with Gillman in 1960. "Screens, gadgets—he had 'em all. It was like going into a restaurant: Anything you wanted to eat, he had."

"It was *Star Wars*," says Walsh, who learned it from Davis in Oakland. "It was light years beyond anything else at that time."

And yet, as influential as Gillman's playbook proved to be, those who worked with him insist that what he taught was never as important as the way he taught it.

"Let's say we went into a history class," Davis says. "We may be interested in different areas of history, different 'theaters,' but the way we learn it might be the same. Write it.

Learn it. See it. Do it. Remember that?"

That was the Gillman four-step, and it became the most popular dance in the league.

"He really made the AFL in a lot of ways," says Jerry Magee, long-time sportswriter for the *San Diego Union*. "He had coached the Rams. He knew how a professional organization should operate. His peers had to rise to his level to survive."

"He talked about stability, how to manage yourself, how to work," says Faulkner, who played for Gillman at Miami of Ohio. "The intensity he had was something. We'd go into a meeting at six in the morning and we wouldn't get out until midnight."

The late Joe Madro, another faithful lieutenant who followed Gillman from team to team, used to joke that he spent so many hours breaking down film for the old man, he'd had three children before he figured out what the hell was causing them.

But if Gillman was relentless in his demands, it was hard to protest, because he was usually the last one out the door. He spent four nights a week at the Lafayette Hotel, site of the Chargers' offices, during the football season. And it was not uncommon to see Gillman, stripped down to boxer shorts and T-shirt, waltz past startled customers in the Red Fox Room to order up a late-night steak and potatoes.

CHARLES AQUA VIVA

Supercharged Offense: *With John Hadl (21) at quarterback and Lance Alworth (19) at wide receiver, Gillman unleashed a Chargers' offense that was capable of scoring from any place on the field.*

On game day he approached a hypnotic state.

"We had a small staff, so we all took care of a lot of different things," says Al LoCasale, a 29-year Raiders executive who began as Gillman's assistant director of player personnel. "I'd come in and Sid would ask, 'Who'd you see?' So I'd start to tell him. And halfway into the conversation I could have said, 'Somebody kidnapped your daughter Terry. They want a three-million-dollar ransom.' And he'd say, 'Don't bother me with this stuff now.'

"He didn't hear anything on game day."

Gillman couldn't help himself. His love for football was absolute. He breathed it, devoured it. He prepared for the Buffalo Bills like Montgomery prepared for Rommel.

Walsh, who eventually would lead the 49ers to three Super Bowl victories, was with the Raiders when they came to San Diego to play the Chargers in 1966. Relaxing the night before the game, he turned on the TV and there was *The Sid Gillman Show*.

"He had a projection screen behind him, and [wide receiver] Lance Alworth was on the show with him," Walsh says. "And Sid was describing the slant pattern. He ran the film back and forth, breaking down this play. And that had a major influence on me. The attention to detail the man took with this one play was unbelievable."

Years later, even after he had eased into an assistant's role, Gillman was no less detail-oriented. "In the offseason, he wouldn't just say, 'Drop back and let's go,'" explains former quarterback and current ESPN analyst Ron Jaworski, who played in Philadelphia when Gillman served as quarterbacks coach. "He'd work on your grip, on your stance under center, on how you handled the exchange. It did not matter if you were a rookie or a ten-year veteran."

At least Gillman's temperament had softened considerably by then. Those who worked with him in San Diego, even as they speak of him fondly, remember a gruff and often imperious boss.

"When he chewed you out, you were left speechless, senseless, and mortified," says NFL Films president Steve Sabol. Gillman, the first coach ever to consent to wear a microphone for NFL Films, produced frequent appearances in the programs made by Steve's father, Ed Sabol.

Ron Mix wasn't on the receiving end of many Gillman lashings. Mix was the closest thing there's ever been to a technically flawless tackle, but he, too, can attest to the coach's volcanic potential. One day the offensive and defensive linemen were working together in one-on-one run-blocking drills, and Mix found himself matched up against a defensive end named Bob Reifsnyder. Early in the proceedings, Mix experienced one of those sublime athletic moments when every micromovement works to perfection. He exploded into Reifsnyder, who literally became airborne before landing flat on his back.

Gillman was gleeful. He called the whole team around, barking, "Mix just knocked the hell out of Reifsnyder...and he's gonna do it again!"

"Well, I glanced at Reifsnyder and he looked like Yosemite Sam," says Mix, now an attorney in San Diego. "Steam was ready to come from his ears. And he had his chin about one inch off the ground. There was no way I was going to get under him."

They grappled to a stalemate, and Gillman was incensed.

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SUPER BOWL I
Green Bay 35
Kansas City 10

SUPER BOWL II
Green Bay 33
Oakland 14

SUPER BOWL III
N.Y. Jets 16
Baltimore 7

SUPER BOWL IV
Kansas City 23
Minnesota 7

SUPER BOWL V
Baltimore 16
Dallas 13

SUPER BOWL VI
Dallas 24
Miami 3

SUPER BOWL VII
Miami 14
Washington 7

SUPER BOWL VIII
Miami 24
Minnesota 7

SUPER BOWL IX
Pittsburgh 16
Minnesota 6

SUPER BOWL X
Pittsburgh 21
Dallas 17

SUPER BOWL XI
Oakland 32
Minnesota 14

SUPER BOWL XII
Dallas 27
Denver 10

SUPER BOWL XIII
Pittsburgh 35
Dallas 31

SUPER BOWL XIV
Pittsburgh 31
Los Angeles 19

SUPER BOWL XV
Oakland 27
Philadelphia 10

SUPER BOWL XVI
San Francisco 26
Cincinnati 21

SUPER BOWL XVII
Washington 27
Miami 17

SUPER BOWL XVIII
L.A. Raiders 38
Washington 9

SUPER BOWL XIX
San Francisco 38
Miami 16

SUPER BOWL XX
Chicago 46
New England 10

SUPER BOWL XXI
N.Y. Giants 39
Denver 20

SUPER BOWL XXII
Washington 42
Denver 10

SUPER BOWL XXIII
San Francisco 20
Cincinnati 16

SUPER BOWL XXIV
San Francisco 55
Denver 10

SUPER BOWL XXV
N.Y. Giants 20
Buffalo 19

SUPER BOWL XXVI
Washington 37
Buffalo 24

SUPER BOWL XXVII
Dallas 52
Buffalo 17

SUPER BOWL XXVIII
Dallas 30
Buffalo 13

SUPER BOWL XXIX
San Francisco 49
San Diego 26

SUPER BOWL XXX
Dallas 27
Pittsburgh 17

SUPER BOWL XXXI
Green Bay 35
New England 21

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"Damn it, Mix," he yelled, "you have to do it the same way every time! I want consistency!"

In those days, only one man was more aggravating than the Chargers' head coach. That was the team's general manager: Sid Gillman, legendary negotiator of contracts.

Once, after a fruitless round of give-and-take in Gillman's office, Earl Faison got up and headed for the door. Then he heard Gillman's voice: "Earl."

"Yes, Coach?" Faison asked as he started back to the boss's desk. He was thinking, "Now I've got him!"

Gillman, puffing on his pipe as always, never looked up. He reached for a box on his desktop and said, "Take a couple of pieces of candy as you go."

"That just crushed me," says Faison, the towering defensive end who's now a towering vice principal at University City High School in La Jolla, California. "Sid was an enigma. He was very difficult to figure out for me. But, hey, we also did everything first class."

And Faison wasn't the only black athlete sharing in that first-class treatment. "This was a time when the Washington Redskins had yet to play a single black player," Mix says. "Most teams seemed to have a quota of five or six. Well, the Chargers had ten or twelve."

The team weathered more than its share of indignities on Southern road trips. The Chargers once were turned away from the Shamrock Hotel in Houston, no matter that the hotel and the team were owned by the same man, Barron Hilton. The reaction from Gillman was to organize the troops for a dramatic, unified march-out.

If Gillman helped to push the agenda of an integrated league, he did so as a practical matter. He clearly was determined to field the best lineup possible. And yet, his unwavering stance in the face of prevailing attitudes might also have had something to do with his own early experiences in coaching.

"We had great college teams, and I was an ambitious sucker," Gillman says. "And every time a job would open up in the Big Ten, I would apply for it. But as soon as they found out I was a Jew, that was the end of it."

ANDY HAYT

Film Critic: *Gillman, who was among the first to analyze plays on film, used his skill to help the Eagles advance to Super Bowl XV.*

The University of Minnesota athletic director told Gillman, "You're going to be our next coach." He never called again. At Purdue, the Board of Regents asked Gillman, "What would the alumni say?" At Ohio State it was more of the same.

"When the Rams job opened up I was interviewed by Dan Reeves," Gillman recalls. "We were discussing everything, and I said, 'Hey, Dan, do you know that I'm a Jew?'

"He said, 'Yes, I do. That may help.'"

Welcome to California, Sid.

Gillman would maintain a home in southern California forevermore, but he was destined to roam professionally. He feuded with Hilton's successor, Gene Klein, and left the Chargers "by mutual consent" in the middle of the 1971 season.

The Houston Oilers hired Gillman as executive vice president and general manager in 1973. Before the year was done he had named himself head coach. The next season he improved the Oilers' record from 1-13 to 7-7 and was named AFC coach of the year. Then his impolitic nature again got the better of him, and he left on bitter terms with club owner Bud Adams.

Gillman was 63 when he left Houston. He said he was looking forward to retirement, but it was nowhere in sight.

No, the Father of the Passing Game was about to embark on a far-flung coaching odyssey. He went to Chicago as the Bears' offensive coordinator in 1977, and they made the playoffs for the first time in 14 years. He went to an obscure San Diego campus called United States International University in 1978, and, though he stayed only four months, he managed to hire four assistant coaches—Tom Walsh, Mike Sheppard, John Fox, and Mike Solari—who would graduate to the NFL. He went to Philadelphia as quarterbacks coach in 1979, retired, then came back again. "We wouldn't have made it to the Super Bowl without him," says Dick Vermeil, who took the Eagles to Super Bowl XV and now pilots the Rams.

Gillman wasn't done. He considered the analysis of game film a leisure activity, so he couldn't resist when someone

CONTINUED ON PAGE 116

The game face you'll always remember.

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A WEAPON NAMED 'BAMBI'

A great craftsman needs the right tools. When Sid Gillman was reconstructing offensive football to fly instead of hug the ground, his most valuable tool was a man with the unlikeliest of football names: "Bambi." That would be wide receiver Lance Alworth.

"He was the perfect player for our offense," Gillman says. "His speed in the open field, his intelligence in reading defenses—nobody was better suited for our offense. He was just fantastic."

"I have to give Sid fifty percent of the credit for what I accomplished, if not more," Alworth says. "The reason we did so well was that we had a system that worked. And we had players who made it work."

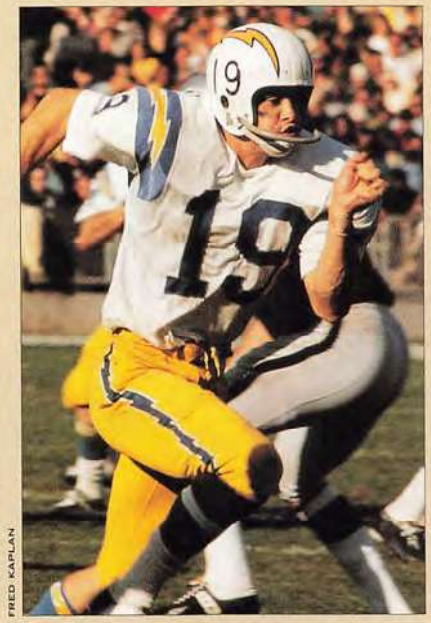
No player was more integral to the system than Alworth, doe-eyed and as fleet of foot as his nickname. He was the premier wide receiver of the 1960s, a lightning bolt who put electricity into the Chargers' offense.

Alworth was a first-round draft pick by the NFL's 49ers and a second-round pick by the AFL's Chargers in 1962. He was an All-America halfback at the University of Arkansas and came to the pros with little pass-catching experience.

"I was really a running back in college," Alworth says. "If you wanted to see me catch a pass, you had to come during warm ups."

Al Davis, then a Chargers assistant coach, apparently showed up early to Razorbacks games. The man who would go on to lead the Raiders recruited the young star.

"More than anything, Al Davis made me choose the AFL," Alworth says. "He completely sold me on the idea of living in southern California."



FRED KAPLAN

Upon Alworth's arrival in San Diego, he was mistaken for the paper boy by a Chargers' secretary. The confusion did not last long. The Arkansas native was named to seven AFL All-Star teams, had seven consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, and set an NFL record by catching a pass in 96 consecutive games.

But that wasn't enough.

"He always wanted the ball," Gillman says. "He never got it enough."

"[San Diego quarterback John] Hadl had to tell me to shut up all the time," Alworth says. "I would get mad if they didn't throw it to me on third down. I just wanted to get the first down so we could stay out there longer."

In Alworth's nine seasons in San Diego (1962-1970), he averaged more than 50 catches and 1,000 yards per season, with an average of 19.4 yards per catch. He finished his 11-year career (he played with Dallas from 1971-72) with 542 receptions. His 1,602 receiving yards, accumulated in 14 games in 1965, remain a club single-season record. And Alworth still holds an NFL record with five career 200-yard games.

In 1978, Alworth became the first AFL player to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. In 1994, he was named to the NFL's 75th Anniversary All-Time Team.

"Lance made the game look like a wide-open game because he always was wide open," AFL founder and Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt says.

Although his highlight-reel leaping catches and sprinter's speed made him famous, it was Alworth's toughness that earned him respect.

"That man had as much intestinal fortitude as any player I've seen," says Bum Phillips, a San Diego assistant coach from 1967-1971.

For Alworth (who played at 6 feet, 184 pounds), the realization that he had what it took to play pro football arrived in a flash.

"There was a play during my first season," he says. "I don't even remember who we were playing. I went across the middle, and I went up with three guys and got the ball. And then, of course, I got the hell knocked out of me. But that's when I realized I could do this all the time."

Alworth, 57 and living in San Diego, still thinks about next Sunday, but in a different way.

"I can watch games on TV, but I really don't go to games anymore," he says. "I get out there and I want to be on the field, not in the stands. I hear the crowds, and I want to be out there. I would love to have played in today's game."

—James Buckley, Jr.

"I HAVE TO GIVE SID FIFTY PERCENT OF THE CREDIT FOR WHAT I ACCOMPLISHED, IF NOT MORE," ALWORTH SAYS. "THE REASON WE DID SO WELL WAS THAT WE HAD A SYSTEM THAT WORKED. AND WE HAD PLAYERS WHO MADE IT WORK."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 113

asked him to do it for a living. He signed on with the USFL's Oklahoma Outlaws in 1983, the Los Angeles Express in 1984, and the Eagles (again) in 1985. In 1987, he popped up at the University of Pittsburgh, a 76-year-old unpaid consultant.

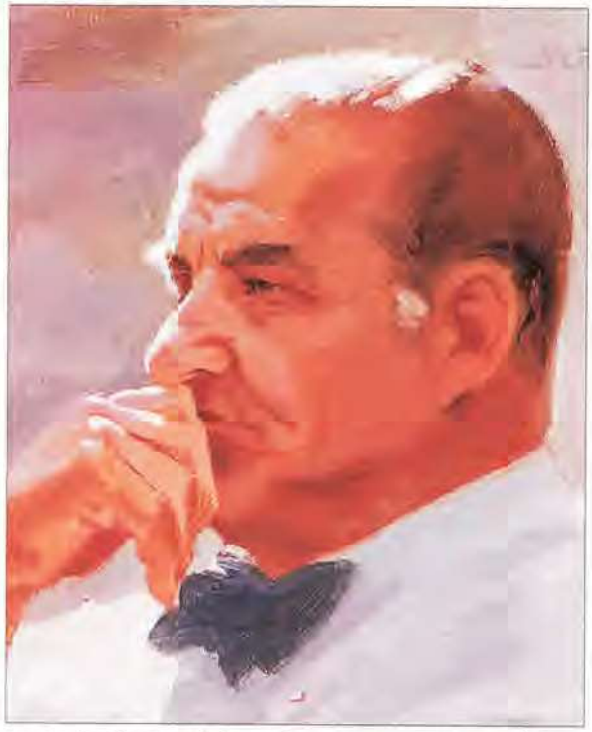
Along the way, he rarely said no to a coaching clinic or a sports symposium if he could stuff it into his schedule.

But just when frequent-flyer miles were coming into vogue, the vagabond came home to stay. And there, as always, was Esther Gillman, his date for the high school senior prom and his spouse of 62 years.

When the subject is Sid Gillman, the talk almost always comes around to Esther. "She was about as perfect a coach's wife as you could ever find," LoCasale says. "She was good with names and faces. They'd walk into a gathering side-by-side, and you could see her whispering, 'That's Joe Blow...that's John Johnson....'"

Esther put up with the absences, the relocation, and the prying eyes of the press because she, too, loved the world to which Sid introduced her. "He made it interesting," she says. "He didn't force us into it, but he made us understand. Fortunately, we always won more than we lost, so I didn't have to worry about going to the supermarket on Monday and getting hell from the meat man.

"And when Sid came home he was a wonderful husband and a wonderful father. And he had other interests: music, ballet, theater. So it wasn't a redundant sort of life."



Portrait of a Tactician: *A master strategist in his coaching days, Gillman still loves the game.*

It isn't yet. The Gillmans still enjoy the arts. Sid, once an accomplished pianist, hasn't played for years, but he has one of the finest collections of 33-rpm vinyl anywhere. He's got pop and classical, but mostly jazz: McCoy Tyner, Nina Simone, Cannonball Adderley, Dave Brubeck, Fatha Hines. All the great names are there, lined up horizontally in a tight row.

Gillman, the impossible-to-please perfectionist for so many years, is now a fuzzy picture of satisfaction. He has four children ("I've got great kids, have I got great kids."), eight grandchildren ("lawyers and doctors, and bright as hell"), and one great-grandson ("and he'll be the smartest one of the whole bunch"). Gillman has a swimming pool shaped like a football, with brown tiles along one side that resemble laces. He has grapefruit, orange, lime, and lemon trees, and a small tomato garden under constant assault by the neighborhood bunnies. He has a golf cart with so many stickers pasted on the windshield—from the Chiefs and the Rams to the Israel Volleyball Association—that it looks like an entry in a NASCAR race.

And, of course, he has his film canisters and video cassettes. As a whole, they form one of the most comprehensive collections of football documentation on the planet. "I'd love to have a penny for every foot of film he's watched," Carl Peterson says. "He would, too."

The game tapes continue to proliferate. Every Monday during the football season, the hydraulic squeak of a braking UPS truck signals the arrival of more. Peterson sends him the latest Chiefs game, Vermeil sends him the Rams, Davis the Raiders.

"About three or four years ago we were doing poorly," Davis reports. "And he was yelling at me. I said, 'Damn it, Sid, this is my team. Not yours!' He was used to giving me advice."

Gillman rarely butts in these days. Mostly he watches for fun, and for habit, and for pride. "It would disturb the daylights out of me if someone were to call me up and say, 'What about this? What about that?'—from a technical football standpoint—and I couldn't provide the answer," he says.

He always can turn to his cutups for reference. This is the real treasure in Gillman's garage, where much of the archives was recently transferred while the upstairs den got a new layer of carpet. There are dozens of film reels, coded blue for running plays and gray for passing, each devoted to one aspect of the game: Post Pattern; Up; Scissors; Play Pass. Every reel contains about 350 feet of film, maybe 25 snaps featuring the best players of the era. It could be Hadl to Alworth, or Namath to Maynard, or Starr to Dowler, or Sayers on a power sweep.

Write it. Learn it. See it. Do it.

That was Sid Gillman's recipe for success. But Gillman is 86 years old now. He gets winded easily and he shuffles slowly, his legs doing all the work for his board-stiff back.

"Such is life," he says. "I'm too old to take part now. I could do some office work, some movie work, but I couldn't coach—nothing on the field. I know that."

In essence, the Father of the Passing Game has had to eliminate one step of the recipe. The surprise is that he doesn't miss "doing it" as much as he thought he might. He's as happy as ever, wielding that remote control as adeptly as any 15-year-old, forwarding and reversing the tape and sending 320-pound offensive linemen back and forth with the grace of synchronized swimmers.

Write it. Learn it. See it.

Write it. Learn it. See it.

"Football's my life," Gillman says. "I want it to last forever. It won't, but I hope it does."

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fig. A

fig. B

fig. C

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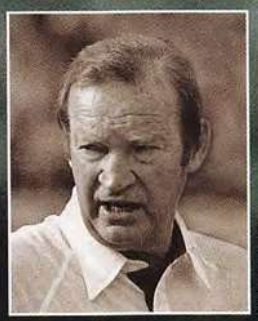
FLYING HIGH WITH AIR CORYELL

Don Coryell's Pass-Happy Schemes Made NFL Defenses Cringe

By Tom Barnidge

Those who know him best will tell you that Don Coryell is a straight-talking guy. He wears his emotions on his face. Honesty has been a hallmark everywhere he has coached.

So there is no reason to doubt his word when he says that he started out as a "run-first" coach. "We used the I-formation way back in 1955 before we even knew the name of it," he says, remembering a stint at Wenatchee [Washington] Junior College. "We called it 'backs right' and 'backs left.' You know, Power-I right and left. Back then, I was strictly a running coach."



GEORGE ROSE

Defensive backs who patrolled NFL secondaries in the 1970s and 1980s might find that hard to believe. What they more likely remember about Coryell's teams are long Sunday afternoons spent in full flight, receivers scattering like kids in a toy store, and spiraling passes falling from the sky without stop.

For 14 NFL seasons—five at the helm of the St. Louis Cardinals and nine with the San Diego Chargers—Coryell stalked pro football's sidelines wearing a glare that could melt lead, and dedicated his life to creating offensive schemes designed to lay waste to any defense in his path.

His singular goal: to move the football. His vehicle of choice: the forward pass.

"Every coach tells his players not to look past the next game," former Raiders safety Mike Davis remembers. "But when we used to look at the schedule at the beginning of the year, we skipped past Seattle and Denver and Kansas City until we found the games against San Diego. It seemed like they were written in large, capital letters. We called them 'Oh, Lord!' games, as in, 'Oh, Lord, here they come!' You knew that when you played them it would be raining footballs from start to finish."

In San Diego, the coach gained his greatest fame and the team came to bear his name. It was a label born of whimsy, a humorous allusion to San Diego's baseball team. At that time, the baseball Padres traveled to road games on Air Kroc, the private jet belonging to

MICHAEL YADA

Game Face: *During the heat of battle, Don Coryell was the picture of intensity, flashing a glare that could melt lead.*

club owner Ray Kroc. When the Chargers went airborne to arrive in opposition end zones, they were said to be traveling via Air Coryell. But it was no joke to the rest of the league.

For a record-setting six successive seasons (1978-1983), and in 1985, the Chargers led the NFL in passing yardage. Quarterback Dan Fouts passed his way into the Pro Football Hall of Fame while directing this offense. Tight end Kellen Winslow and wide receiver Charlie Joiner earned admission to the Hall by serving as his targets. The Chargers might not have been the best team in the NFL, but they unquestionably were the most exciting team to watch.

The Chargers lit up scoreboards like a Fourth of July night, whether in victory or defeat. In 1981 and 1982, they led the league in scoring. In 1979, they tied for second. Over a span of 57 games from 1979-1982, they *averaged* 28 points per game. No opponent was too potent and no field was too long to keep the Chargers out of the end zone. Defenses merely were speed bumps on the path to the goal line.

"A lot of teams had thrown the ball before," says John Jefferson, a glue-fingered wide receiver for the Chargers from 1978-1980, "but not in the way Coryell designed the offense. We utilized the entire field and every weapon we had, from fullback to tailback to flanker to wide out to tight end. We didn't feature one player—Coryell's system was designed to go to the open man. He'd diagram plays that would get every receiver into the game plan. San Francisco picked up on that with the West Coast offense and did the same thing."

The seeds of Coryell's philosophy had been planted nearly two decades before, when he inherited a lightly regarded San Diego State team that had posted a 1-6-1 record in 1960. Using a balanced attack, he promptly engineered a turnaround to 7-2-1, followed by four nearly identical seasons. But each season was blemished with two defeats, a recurrence that troubled him. There were certain teams on his schedule, he finally decided, that simply were too big and too talented to be beaten by conventional means.

"If a team is physically stronger than you are," he says, "you're not going to beat them by running the ball. I thought if we put the right athletes in the right positions, we could make some points, and the other teams would be forced to try to outscore us."

The philosophy that took root at San Diego State attracted a steady supply of skill-position talent. Future NFL quarterbacks Don Horn, Dennis Shaw, and Brian Sipe honed their passing skills at the School of Coryell. Future NFL receivers Haven Moses, Gary Garrison, and Isaac Curtis ran pass routes there. A little football school of no previous acclaim had found a distinctive niche.

"Don's program was born of necessity," Sipe says. "At a school like San Diego State, he couldn't recruit the big horses he needed to play smash-mouth football. So he won the only way he knew how, by neutralizing the size difference. We had a 180-pound tight end who wasn't big enough to do any blocking, so Don put him in the slot. From there, he could wreak havoc by running patterns inside against linebackers who couldn't cover him. It was typical of Don to do something no

"IF A TEAM IS PHYSICALLY STRONGER...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT THEM BY RUNNING THE BALL."

one else would do—and not being afraid to try anything."

School records set by Coryell's teams that remain unequaled three decades later attest to the effectiveness of his innovations: total yardage in a single game (769 against New Mexico State); touchdown passes in a season (43, in 1969); longest unbeaten streak (31 games). His 1966 and 1969 teams finished with 11-0 records; 6 of his 12 teams won at least nine games in a season.

Coryell's 104-19-2 record at San Diego State—he is the only coach to win 100 games both in college and pro football—was his ticket to the NFL. The St. Louis Cardinals, a team in need of inspiration after back-to-back 4-9-1 seasons, introduced him as their new coach on January 18, 1973.

"His first year with us [another 4-9-1 record] wasn't any better than the previous two had been," former quarterback Jim Hart remembers, "and yet at the end of that year everyone felt like there were some good things about to happen. He realized we had the talent to open up the offense. And when Don got focused on something, it consumed him. He was electrifying. He made you feel like you wanted to go to war with him."

HERB WEITMAN

Heart to Hart: *Quarterback Jim Hart (left) sensed that good things were in store when Coryell arrived in St. Louis.*

In 1974, the Cardinals bore Coryell's signature. The players embraced his offense, and he delivered a divisional championship. He unveiled an option-passing system that enabled the quarterback to size up pass coverage and pick its weakest spot. He introduced an outrageous flea-flicker play that required a cross-field lateral—and resulted in an 81-yard completion against the Dallas Cowboys. He turned running back Terry Metcalf into a run-or-catch threat who led the NFC in all-purpose yards, and helped transform wide receiver Mel Gray, an accomplished collegiate sprinter, into one of the most terrifying deep threats in the game.

With an offense that could strike from any distance, no game was out of reach. And no opponent could take a deep breath against a comeback-happy team that came to be known as the "Cardiac Cardinals." By the end of the regular season, Hart led the NFC in touchdown passes, the Cardinals were 10-4, the franchise had its first playoff berth in 26 years, and Coryell was voted NFL coach of the year by his peers. "My proudest accomplishment," he says of the acknowledgement. "It showed that I belonged in the NFL."

A year later, he proved it was no fluke when the Cardinals successfully defended their NFC East title.

But not all of Coryell's achievements could be attributed simply to Xs and Os. Jim Hanifan, Coryell's long-time assistant and one of his closest friends, says much of the coach's success sprang from his uninhibited approach to the game.

"He is one of the most enthusiastic individuals you'll ever meet," Hanifan says, "and his attitude permeated the entire football team. The players knew that he cared about them, he cared about the game, and he was going to put them in the best position he could for them to succeed each week. They believed in him.

"When we first came to St. Louis, we were at practice one day when Jimmy Hart completed a deep pass down the middle to Jackie Smith. Now, Jackie was a veteran—he'd been the league for ten or twelve years—so he didn't think there was anything spectacular about making a catch in practice. But when he turned around, right next to him running full speed, was Don Coryell, and he's shouting, 'Great catch, Jackie! Atta go! Atta go!'

"Jackie came over to me with a stunned look on his face and said, 'I've never had a coach do something like that. My God, this guy is something else.'"

Coryell's intensity was legend. So, too, were his motivational techniques, which ranged from heartfelt pep talks to benches bounced off locker-room walls. Among the most fabled examples of his tunnel-vision speeches came on the eve of one of the Cardinals' games against the Washington Redskins, which was to be played in freezing weather in St. Louis. Coryell reminded his players that they had practiced all week in the cold, that they had toughened themselves for this battle. He likened them to Eskimos who had helped construct the Alaskan pipeline, without the need for fur-lined boots, heavy coats, or hand warmers. "You're tougher than the Redskins," he bellowed. "You are the Eskimos, and Eskimos don't feel the cold."

It was then that all-pro tackle Dan Dierdorf spoke up, mischief in his voice, and innocently asked the coach: "What if I get out there tomorrow and find an Eskimo lined up across from me?" Coryell didn't even flinch. "I've watched the waiver wire all week long," he said. "The Redskins don't have any new players on their team."

Much like their coach, Coryell's teams were focused, as opponents came to learn—even the Redskins and Cowboys, who had dominated the NFC East. In 1974, the Cardinals swept both meetings with the Redskins, to the anguished chagrin of Washington coach George Allen. In each of his last

CONTINUED ON PAGE 125

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CORYELL'S MAIN MAN

When tight end Kellen Winslow stepped off the plane in San Diego for the first time in 1979, he knew he would be happy playing for the Chargers.

"How would you like to play some wide receiver?" head coach Don Coryell asked him.

"I was in heaven," Winslow says.

Coryell was not being literal, of course. Winslow went on to play nine seasons at tight end—some would argue that he played it better than any other player in NFL history—and eventually was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

But the Chargers' coach was intimating what the rookie could expect playing in San Diego's wide-open offense. Winslow had caught just 71 passes in his four-year college career at Missouri. With the Chargers, he would line up at the traditional tight-end position, but also at wide receiver, in the slot, and even in the backfield on occasion. He would revolutionize the position.

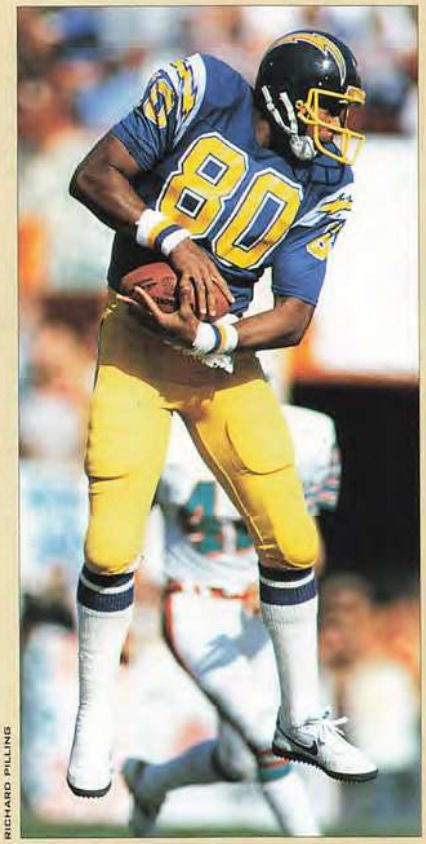
Maybe Coryell wasn't looking that far ahead, but he knew he had a powerful weapon for his arsenal.

"He certainly can help us right away," the coach said after the Chargers traded up to select Winslow with the thirteenth pick of the 1979 draft.

Indeed, Winslow caught a team-high 25 passes in the first seven games of 1979, but a broken leg ended his season. He won the first of back-to-back NFL receiving titles in 1980 with 89 catches for 1,290 yards and 9 touchdowns, and followed that with 88 catches for 1,075 yards and 10 touchdowns in 1981. He finished his career in 1987 with 541 catches and five Pro Bowl appearances.

"Kellen presented a special problem because the offense was designed around him," former Raiders safety Mike Davis says.

No offense ever had been designed around a tight end. Then again, no offense ever had a 6-foot 5-inch, 250-pound tight end with a football player's strength, a basketball player's moves, and a track star's speed.



RICHARD PILLING

Tight ends had caught passes before Winslow, of course. But a tight end never had brought the combination of gifts that Winslow did.

And yet, for all his physical tools, Winslow succeeded in large part because of what was inside the helmet.

"He is a great athlete, but his greatest asset was his intelligence," former Chargers offensive coordinator and Redskins head coach Joe Gibbs says.

That made processing Coryell's offense a lot easier.

"It was a very complicated system, but also a very simple system," Winslow says. "All you had to do was listen and you would know where you were supposed to be and what you were supposed to do."

Still, the things Winslow did as a tight end were not conventional.

"He would shift, he would go in motion, he would spread out right or left, he would be in the backfield," says Davis, who lined up opposite Winslow twice a year. "You couldn't stop Kellen. When a guy that size gets his momentum started, [you're] in a difficult position."

Davis knows firsthand. Against the Raiders in 1980, Winslow had a breakout game with 9 catches for 132 yards. In 1981, he burned the Raiders for 13 receptions and 5 touchdowns.

Winslow redefined the role of the tight end, but few are blessed with his blend of size, talent, and intelligence. Denver's Shannon Sharpe and Oakland's Rickey Dudley are perhaps the closest imitations today.

But would there be any need for comparisons if Winslow had stepped off that plane in Tampa or Seattle?

"I get drafted by Cincinnati and you may never hear from me again," he says. "I get drafted by Buffalo and you may never know who Kellen Winslow is. But I go to San Diego and my career takes off.

"When I got off that plane, coach Coryell didn't ask me 'How are you?' or anything like that. He just wanted to know if I wanted to catch passes.

"I knew I was going to enjoy playing there."

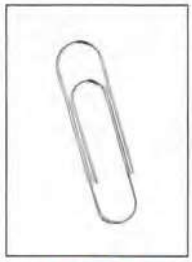
—Jim Gigliotti

"KELLEN PRESENTED A SPECIAL PROBLEM BECAUSE THE OFFENSE WAS DESIGNED AROUND HIM," FORMER RAIDERS SAFETY MIKE DAVIS SAYS.

Drew Apicture
Quarterback

Juss Billamee
Safety

Chuck Bord
Tackle



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Defensive Tackle

Vin DeOtape
Cornerback

C. Detrick
Wide Receiver

Rolo Dexter
Linebacker

Cliff Ford
Safety

"Red" Greene
Defensive Tackle

Macon Holes
Guard

Zelmore Holmes
Guard

Jamail Isin
Halfback

Lickitt Ismail
Safety

Seymour Jones
Tight End

Juwase Khan
Wide Receiver

Tack Lambert
Linebacker

Duframe Lewis
Defensive End

Reggie Light
Defensive Tackle

Terry Markwright
Tackle

Clipper Martin
Guard

Stamp Mitchell
Fullback

M.T. Page
Defensive End

Ernie Racer
Halfback

Mathias Sharp
Cornerback

Penny Sills
Wide Receiver

D. Spencer
Fullback

Kenny Stapler
Center

Eaton Steel
Tight End

Jan Stenobuk
Kicker

Thurston Ten
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Punter

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 121

four seasons in St. Louis, from 1974 through 1977, Coryell never failed to beat Tom Landry's Cowboys at least once. In two games in 1975, the Cardinals totaled 62 points against the Cowboys' heralded Flex defense.

"He never had enough," Hart says. "He always wanted to throw the ball. It could be third-and-inches or fourth-and-inches, and while we're standing on the sideline with the assistant coaches deciding what running play to call, Don's saying, 'Let's throw it! Let's throw the ball!'"

Coryell pleads innocence: "I don't remember doing that." But his next remark betrays him. "Hey," he says, "you have a better chance of completing the pass when they think you're going to run. That's when you might get the big gain."

But the talent pool had its limits in St. Louis. Lofty expectations and a fiery temperament eventually took their toll on a man who was driven to succeed. By 1977, Coryell's string of miracles had played out. When he left the club after watching a 7-3 start dissolve into a 7-7 season, he took with him a record of 42-29-1. Twenty years later, it remains the winningest record for any coach in the franchise's 78-year history.

Just that quickly, Don and his wife Aliisa repaired to San Diego, where they had raised their family and made friends. But football still pumped through his veins. He sat at home, with no team to coach, diagramming plays and wondering what lie ahead. Four weeks into the 1978 NFL season, Gene Klein, owner of the San Diego Chargers, called. Coryell, who lived only three miles from the stadium, replaced Tommy Prothro as the club's new head coach.

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

Air Force: *Charlie Joiner, John Jefferson, and Kellen Winslow were imposing weapons in San Diego.*

The Chargers, who had gone eight seasons without a winning record, were desperate for a change. They had ended the 1977 season with 6 losses in their last 10 games, and they had begun '78 with three losses in their first four. Fouts remembers his reaction when Coryell arrived.

"It was like someone had sprayed air freshener in the room," he says. "The difference was like night and day. As a player, all you ask of a coach is to give you a way to win with a good game plan. The thing that set Don apart was he wasn't afraid to try anything—new formations, motions, and shifts."

But the innovations did not arrive all at once. Coryell was hesitant to unravel a system that had been installed since training camp. Moreover, he inherited a coaching staff with whom he was not well acquainted.

Twenty years later, now enjoying retirement in remote Friday Harbor, Washington, 73-year-old Don Coryell still remembers the situation.

"I was trying to be tactful," he says. "We used a lot of plays that weren't really from my offense. I tried to stay within the framework of what they had in place."

Five victories in his first eight games hardly reflected the Coryell touch. Only once in that span did the Chargers score as many as 29 points. Twice they were held to 14 or fewer. Then the bottom fell out on November 26 in a 23-0 loss to Kansas City. Klein had been attracted by Coryell's reputation for high-scoring offenses, and a shutout defeat was hard to accept.

"Gene came into my office," Coryell remembers, "and he said, 'What the hell, I hired you to throw the damn football! Why don't you get out there and open it up?' I decided that maybe that was a pretty good idea. I put in some of my own plays and we changed the offense."

The difference was impossible to miss. The Chargers won their final three games by scores of 40-7, 37-10, and 45-24, securing the club's first winning record since 1969. NFL defensive coordinators were put on notice.

"Our plays were basically the same," Fouts says, "but the way we presented them was different each time. We'd throw a basic screen or a post route, but we'd do it from three or four different formations, or we'd do it with motion or with different personnel. It was sound and easy for us to adapt to each week, but it would confuse our opponents. But Don's real genius was in using his personnel to their utmost ability."

The Chargers were blessed with a seemingly endless supply of receiving talent. Raiders strong safety Davis can close his eyes and see them running pass patterns—wide receivers Jefferson and Joiner and tight end Winslow. Later, when Jefferson was traded after a contract dispute, Wes Chandler stepped into the mix.

"Jefferson was the best receiver there's ever been at adjusting to a pass," Davis says. "His speed was effective, but that wasn't what you noticed. The thing about him was, he would catch the ball no matter where it was or who was on him.

"Joiner was as crafty and as silky as could be. He had the experience and the communication with the quarterback to adjust his route after the ball was snapped.

"And Winslow was just tree-top tall all day long, no matter if he was hurt and no matter the score. You could expect him to come after you on every play. He could take apart entire defenses by himself."

When the Chargers were at their offensive best, which seemed nearly every week, their attack only could be slowed, not stopped. Depending on the play call, Fouts retreated from center with a three-, five-, or seven-step drop. He could send as many as five receivers into pass patterns, and he could position them in multiple sets. Often a receiver would go in motion before the snap.

"WITH DON, THE FEELING ALWAYS WAS: DON'T WORRY ABOUT THINGS—JUST THROW THE BALL."

Unlike most other quarterbacks, who looked to the right or left as they dropped back, Fouts kept his shoulders squared, all the better to scan the breadth of the field.

"It was a timing system," Coryell explains, "and I only had one rule: Never pass up an open receiver. You look...you look...and you look, but if number one or two is open, you get the ball to them. Don't wait and hope that number three or number four might be open deeper. And if you have any doubts, throw the ball out of bounds."

It was a surprisingly simplistic scheme. But defensive backs found nothing simple about stopping it.

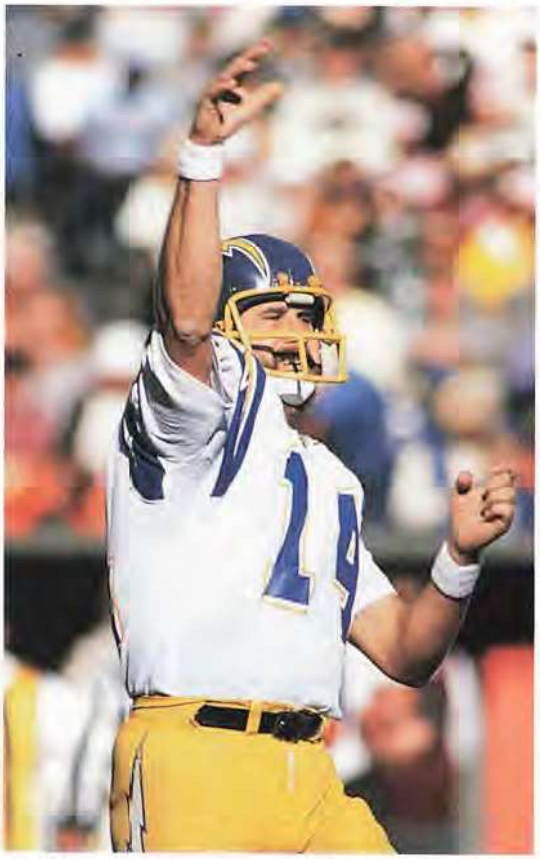
"They gave the quarterback a lot of options," former Patriots and Raiders cornerback Mike Haynes explains. "If they had called a pass to the strongside and we were in the right defense to stop it, Fouts would turn quickly and hit the receiver on his weakside on an end route or a post pattern. When you thought you had everything covered, they had this little slant pattern that they'd run against one-on-one coverage. Fouts always knew where to put the ball. And don't even think about using a zone. The Chargers would pick that apart. For them, that was like the quarterback and receiver playing catch."

"I remember certain things Don would tell me," Fouts says. "He'd say, 'If you don't like the play that's sent in, change it.' A lot of coaches say that, but he really meant what he said. He told me, 'Who's to say you don't have a better idea than the coaches do? If you see something, take it.'

"Another thing about him: If I went out there and missed on my first six or seven passes, he'd say, 'Screw it, you've got forty more to go.' With Don, the feeling always was: Don't worry about things—just throw the ball."

Coryell was open to nearly any offensive notion. He sought out assistants who were anxious to flex creative muscles. Hanifan later would serve for six years as head coach of the Cardinals and as an assistant on the Redskins' 1991 Super Bowl team. Ernie Zampese would become the offensive coordinator for the Los Angeles Rams and Dallas Cowboys; he was in charge of the offense when the Cowboys won Super Bowl XXX. Joe Gibbs, who later coached three Redskins teams to Super Bowl titles, landed a spot in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. With Coryell as the head man, they schemed late into the nights, repositioning Xs and Os.

"His staff in San Diego was the foundation for today's modern schemes," Winslow says. "All the offenses of today seem to be a version of what Coryell started. The Run and Shoot is a version of the one-back set we had in San Diego. The West Coast offense is a variation of what we started. The Hogs in Washington was a variation, but they took it more to the running level. But all of these things are a version of Coach Coryell's offense."



Missile Launcher: *Dan Fouts knew he would have plenty of opportunities to throw the ball.*

RICHARD PILLING

At times, the Chargers seemed unbeatable, even with a defense that often paled by comparison. During the 1979 season, after which the Pittsburgh Steelers and Los Angeles Rams would meet in Super Bowl XIV, the Chargers pounded both. They defeated the Steelers 35-7 and the Rams 40-16.

During the 1982 season, the Chargers faced both of the previous Super Bowl contestants. They piled up 538 total yards in a 41-37 victory over the defending-champion 49ers, and nine days later amassed 661 yards in stomping the runner-up Bengals 50-34.

Twice, Coryell's Chargers found themselves within one victory of pro football's biggest game. His 1980 team even earned home-field advantage for the AFC Championship Game. But after falling behind the Raiders 28-7—and rallying furiously before losing 34-27—the Chargers were left with only a pile of remarkable offensive statistics.

They had passed for 4,531 yards (the league average was 3,153). They had thrown 30 touchdown passes (the league average was 22). Their three leading receivers—Winslow, Jefferson, and Joiner—each had eclipsed 1,000 yards, a milestone reached by only five other players in the entire league that season.

A year later, on the heels of an unforgettable divisional playoff game—a 41-38 overtime victory over the Miami Dolphins—the Chargers again advanced to the AFC Championship Game. But the elements conspired against them. A 59-below wind chill in Cincinnati grounded Air Coryell, and the Bengals scored a 27-7 victory.

"For all the damage we did, as far as scoring, we never got to the big one," Joiner laments. "But I sure enjoyed playing for Coryell. When he was the coach, I couldn't wait for Sunday."

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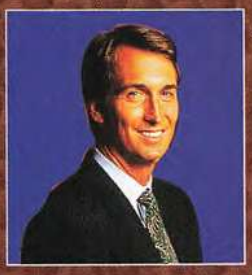

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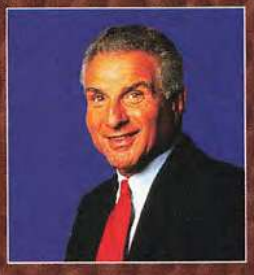

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DEAD SOLID PERFECT

GEORGE ROSE

For One Unbelievable Quarter in Super Bowl XXII, Doug Williams and the Redskins Made Incredible Magic

The numbers, staggering as they are, don't begin to tell the story. There is nothing in the Super Bowl XXII statistical summary that adequately describes what happened that day. How it looked, how it sounded. Most of all, how it felt.

"It was, like, for one day everything I worked for my whole life came together," says Doug Williams, who quarterbacked the Washington Redskins to a 42-10 victory over Denver 10 years ago in San Diego. "Every play we called, every pass I threw was right on."

"I felt like I was in a nightmare," says Steve Wilson, who started at cornerback for the Broncos. "Did you ever have a dream where everyone around you is moving full speed but you're in slow-motion? That's what it was like."

"I remember this kind of 'whoosh,' like an avalanche," says Jim Ryan, an outside linebacker with the Broncos. "It happened so suddenly. One minute, we were up ten points. The next minute, we were down twenty-five. We were buried, and we never saw it coming."

No one saw it coming. How could anyone?

Denver was a four-point favorite. The Redskins had gone 11-4 during the strike-torn season, but hardly looked dominant in the process. Coach Joe Gibbs changed quarterbacks five times; six, if you count Ed Ruppert, who won all three games with the Redskins' replacement team. Williams was 0-2 as a starter in the regular season, and he had struggled since replacing Jay Schroeder in the playoffs, completing only 23 of 55 passes in close victories over Chicago (21-17) and Minnesota (17-10).

If any quarterback was going to light up the skies in Super Bowl XXII, it figured to be Denver's John Elway. It was his stage, and, at age 27, it seemed to be his time. He had been to the Super Bowl the previous year and lost 39-20 to the New York Giants. But the 1987 Redskins weren't considered in the class of those Giants or other recent NFC champions or even the 49ers, who had gone 13-2 but had been upset by Minnesota in the playoffs. Indeed, some observers predicted a lopsided triumph for Elway and the Broncos.

On Denver's first play from scrimmage, Elway hit wide receiver Ricky Nattiel for a 56-yard touchdown. It was the fastest touchdown in Super Bowl history, 1 minute and 57 seconds into the game. On their next possession, the Bron-

By Ray Didinger

SANDERS 80-YARD PASS FROM WILLIAMS

cos added a 24-yard field goal by Rich Karlis. Jack Murphy Stadium was a swirling sea of orange as thousands of Broncos fans celebrated a 10-0 lead. The Redskins seemed listless and out of sync.

"I was thinking, 'Oh, man, this is the Raiders' game all over again," Gibbs says, referring to Super Bowl XVIII, in which the Redskins were mauled 38-9 by the Raiders. "We were missing assignments and dropping passes. We couldn't get anything going."

Then, suddenly, everything changed.

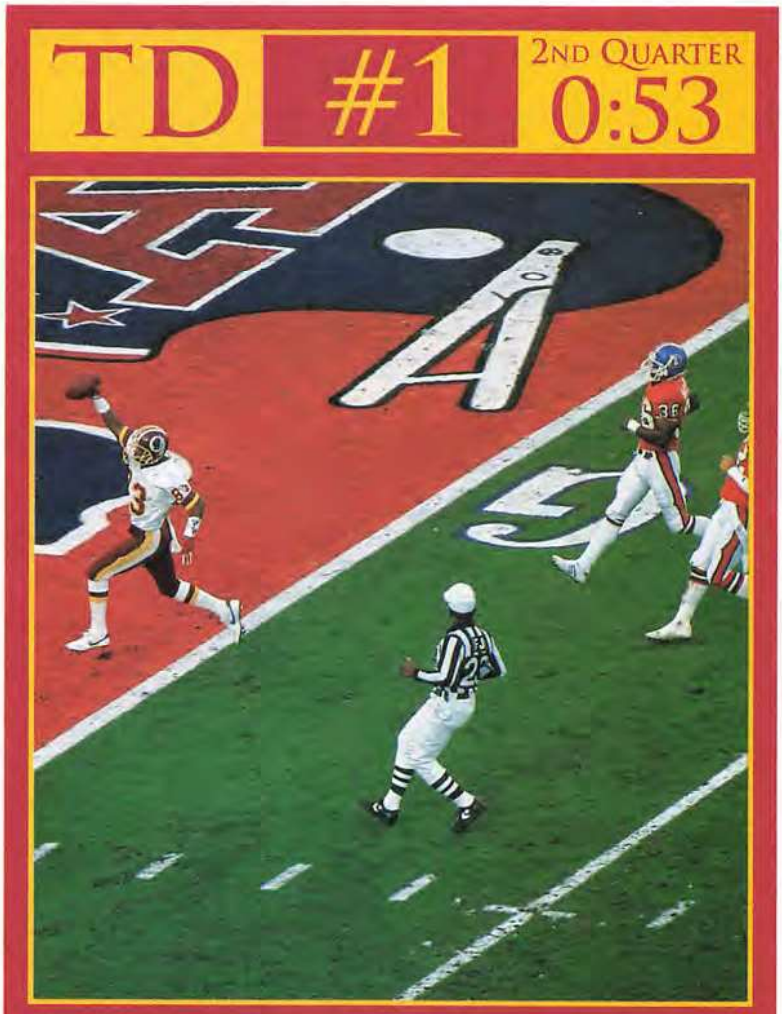
On Washington's first offensive play of the second quarter, Williams hit Ricky Sanders with an 80-yard touchdown pass. On the Redskins' next possession, Williams hit Gary Clark for a 27-yard touchdown. Then Timmy Smith, a rookie running back making his first NFL start, broke away for a 58-yard touchdown. Two more touchdown passes from Williams followed as the Redskins built a 35-10 halftime lead.

Five touchdowns on five possessions. Five touchdowns in 18 plays with a total time of possession of 5 minutes, 47 seconds. The 35 points were the most ever scored in one period of an NFL postseason game. The devastation was so swift, so total, that it left coaches and players on both teams in shock.

"It was like a dreamland," says R.C. Thielemann, the Redskins' starting guard. "Everything Doug threw and everything that we blocked went for big yardage. It wasn't like us to score that fast. We were used to seven and eight-minute drives, not going eighty yards in a minute."

"Guys were dazed, staring into space," Ryan says. "After the first touchdown, I told [cornerback] Mark Haynes, 'Don't worry. It's one touchdown, no big deal.' Then they hit the second one and it was, like, 'We're only four points down. We'll come back.' Then they hit another one and another and another. We just disintegrated."

"Those were my fifteen minutes of fame, I guess," says Joe Collier, who was Denver's defensive coordinator. "They kept flashing my face on TV every time the Redskins hit a big play. There were a zillion people saying: 'What a dodo. Why doesn't he do something?' I tried. The players tried. We all tried. Nothing worked."



First Strike: *Ricky Sanders put the Redskins on the scoreboard with an 80-yard reception early in the second quarter.*

REDSKINS 7 · BRONCOS 10

The story of Super Bowl XXII is really the story of Doug Williams. One year earlier, he was gathering dust as Schroeder's backup. He had 1 pass attempt in the 1986 season. Prior to that, he spent two seasons in the USFL. At age 32, weighed down by personal and professional setbacks, Williams was an unlikely candidate for Super Bowl superstardom.

The Redskins were the only NFL team to contact Williams when the USFL folded in 1986. Gibbs knew Williams from their days in Tampa Bay, when Gibbs was an assistant coach and Williams was a young, strong-armed quarterback who was selected in the first round of the 1978 draft. Williams led the Buccaneers to the playoffs three times, once advancing to the NFC title game, but he left Tampa Bay in a salary dispute following the 1982 season.

The following year, his wife Janice died of a brain tumor less than three months after giving birth to their daughter, Ashley. Playing for Oklahoma and Arizona in the USFL, Williams was hobbled by knee and back injuries. If it weren't for Gibbs, Williams's football career probably would have died with the USFL. But Gibbs wanted an experienced quarterback in reserve behind the hot-and-cold Schroeder.

A shoulder injury sidelined Schroeder in the season opener of 1987. Williams came off the bench and led the Redskins to a 34-24 victory over Philadelphia. The following

GIN ELLIS

CLARK 27-YARD PASS FROM WILLIAMS

week, Williams started and lost to Atlanta 21-20. Schroeder then replaced Williams, then Williams replaced Schroeder. Back and forth it went.

Schroeder started the final game of the regular season, but Gibbs went to Williams in the second half with the score tied 7-7. After the Redskins fell behind 24-14, Williams rallied the team to a 27-24 overtime victory, and Gibbs named him the starter for the playoffs. Williams got the team to the Super Bowl, but his play against Chicago and Minnesota was uneven at best (he completed 1 of 12 attempts in a stretch against the Vikings). He hardly looked like a man peaking for the big game.

"I looked at the overall performance, and I was satisfied with the job Doug was doing," Gibbs says. "When we needed a play, he made it. He had a dry spell against Minnesota, but in the fourth quarter, he hit a big play to Gary Clark to win the game. I called him 'Cool Hand Luke' because that's the way he played. The whole coaching staff, to a man, felt Doug gave us our best chance to win."

For Williams, the pressure was compounded by being the first black quarterback to start in a Super Bowl. In the days leading up to the game, he was asked a thousand times about being a pioneer, a symbol, a standard-bearer for other black quarterbacks.

Williams responded: "The Redskins didn't hire me just to be the first black quarterback in the Super Bowl." He was there to win the game, same as John Elway, same as every other quarterback, before or since.

Williams did not leave his hotel room the first four nights in San Diego. He preferred solitude to the party scene outside. He didn't need any more reminders that he was about to play in the biggest game of his life. He stayed in, watched movies, and read.

"Finally, Jimmie Giles [former Buccaneers tight end] came to town," Williams says. "He said, 'Man, you gotta get out of this room.' So we went out to dinner. Jimmie said, 'You play your whole career to get here. You might as well enjoy the party.' I said, 'I played my whole career to get to this *game*. The heck with the party.'"

Steve Wilson watched with mixed feelings as the Doug Williams saga played out. He admired Williams for what he had overcome to get this opportunity. As a black athlete, Wilson understood the significance of Williams's role in this game. But it was Wilson's job, as a Denver cornerback, to keep Williams from succeeding.

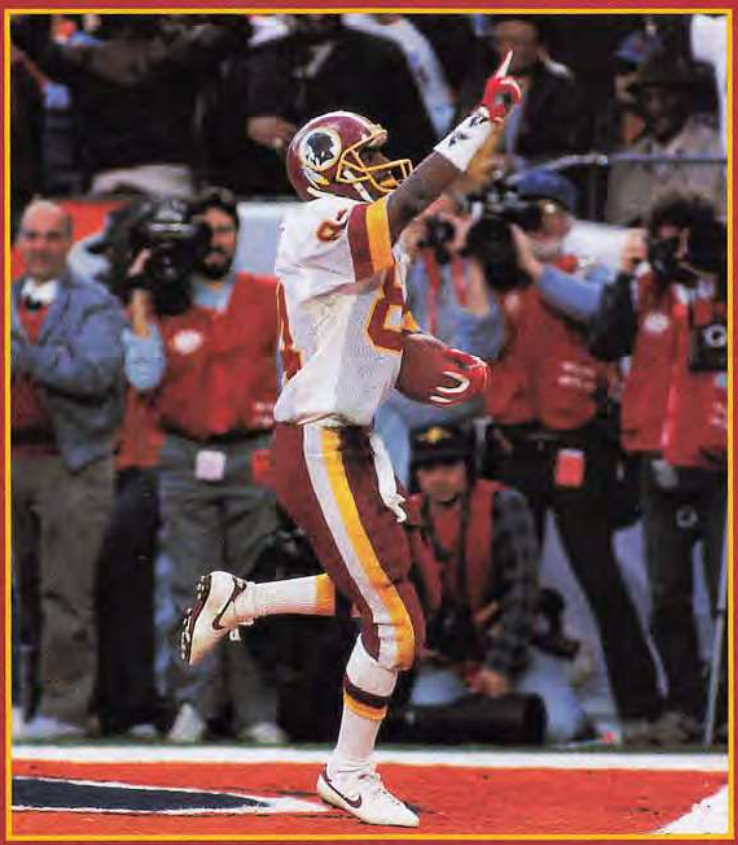
"We all knew Doug was under a lot of pressure," says Wilson, now head football coach at his alma mater, Howard University, in Washington, D.C. "We talked about it. We thought he might come out with a few jitters. But we knew it could work the other way, too, and serve as a rallying point for the whole team. I think that's what happened."

The game started badly for Williams. He completed just 4 of his first 10 passes as the Broncos opened a 10-0 lead. Meanwhile, Elway was doing everything, including catching a 23-yard pass from halfback Steve Sewell to set up a field goal. It was a designed play with Sewell taking a handoff, running right, and passing back to Elway in the left flat. Everything the Broncos tried, even the school-yard stuff, worked.

Late in the first quarter, Williams slipped going back to pass. His left leg twisted beneath him, hyperextending the knee. As Williams went down, he dropped the ball and Denver's Rulon Jones scooped it up. Referee Bob McElwee ruled the play dead. It was a 10-yard loss, but Washington retained possession.

"I know the officials got it wrong," Broncos linebacker

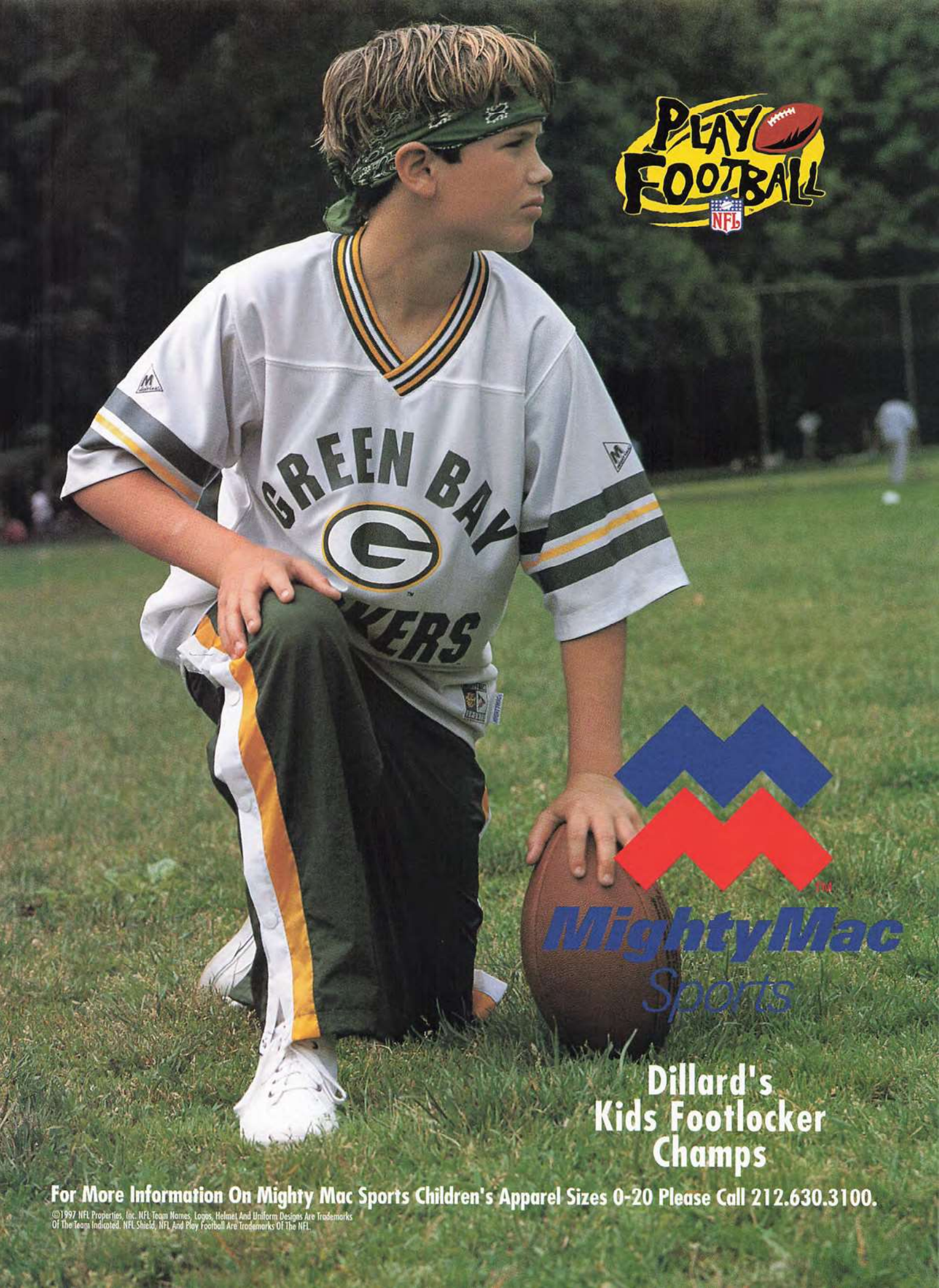
TD #2 2ND QUARTER 4:45



CORKY TREWIN

Go-Ahead Score: *Washington took the lead when Gary Clark gathered in Doug Williams's 27-yard touchdown pass.*

REDSKINS 14 · BRONCOS 10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SMITH 58-YARD RUN

Karl Mecklenburg says. "[Williams] dropped the ball and grabbed his knee. There's no doubt it was a fumble. If we get the ball there and score again, it's seventeen to nothing. That might have changed the whole game. It might've taken the run away from the Redskins, and it was their running game that beat us."

Williams limped to the bench, and Schroeder replaced him. On his first play, Schroeder was sacked by Mecklenburg for an 8-yard loss. On the next play, Schroeder's pass to running back Kelvin Bryant fell incomplete. The Redskins were forced to punt for the fourth time in the opening quarter.

"We blitzed and we really went after [Schroeder]," Wilson says. "If he had stayed in, I think we would have had good success against him. But Doug came back in and turned the whole game around."

"Joe [Gibbs] came over to see how I was," Williams says. "He said, 'Douglas, can you go?' I said, 'I'm okay, Coach. It ain't nothing but a little pain.' He said, 'All right, let's get this sucker rolling.'"

Williams hobbled onto the field for the next series and, on the first play, hit Sanders for an 80-yard touchdown. "Ricky was supposed to run a seven-yard hitch," Williams says. "But the corner [Haynes] pressed and Ricky turned it upfield. Beat him easy."

"When we hit that play, it was like a fire starter," Gibbs says. "You could feel our whole team come alive. That was the turning point right there."

The next four Washington possessions yielded 4 touchdowns. Williams completed 8 of 10 passes, with touchdown strikes to Clark (27 yards), Sanders (50), and tight end Clint Didier (8). Meanwhile, Smith was running through huge holes in the Denver line. The rookie had runs of 19, 43, and 58 yards, the last of those accounting for Washington's third unanswered touchdown.

When the 1987 season began, Smith was a fifth-round draft pick backing up George Rogers. His busiest day during the regular season: 7 carries for 54 yards against Buffalo in week 8. But with Rogers slowed by injuries, the coaches decided to start Smith in the Super Bowl. They kept it a secret, even from Smith, until pregame introductions on Sunday.

"We didn't want to have to use tear gas to get him out of the locker room, you know what I mean?" says Joe Bugel, who was Washington's offensive line coach. "This is the Super Bowl we're talking about. We didn't want to give the kid too much time to think about it. Just give him the ball and let him run."

"We wanted a quick back who could take advantage of some things," Gibbs says. "George was not up to it. But Timmy was a four-four guy [in the 40-yard dash] who, we felt, could break some plays if we got the kind of blocking we expected up front."

The 5-foot 11-inch, 215-pound Smith had an easy time of it, running behind Washington's massive offensive line, the Hogs. The Redskins ran their signature play, the counter gap, with the guards and tackles pulling to lead the back through Denver's 3-4 defense. The Broncos were outweighed by an average of 25 pounds per man across the line. But size did not decide the game. More important was the scheme drawn up by Gibbs that included a new wrinkle: an extra tight end to lead the blocking on the counter plays.

"We hadn't seen the tight end or H-back in the counter before," Mecklenburg says. "That meant an extra guy, either the linebacker or the safety, was getting blocked. A weight advantage might account for three or four yards at the line of scrimmage. They were hitting us for thirty and forty

TD #3 2ND QUARTER 8:33

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Off to the Races: *Rookie Timmy Smith, in his first NFL start, blasted through the Broncos en route to a 58-yard score.*

REDSKINS 21 · BRONCOS 10

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SANDERS 50-YARD PASS FROM WILLIAMS

yards. That's just better [play] calls and better execution."

"We were an average defense, but we beat teams by slanting our guys in such a way as to take away the other team's strengths," Collier says. "We were good at reading formations and putting our guys in position to make plays. But we couldn't against Washington. They used two tight ends with one back. It was an even front, which forced us to match up man-to-man."

"We had guys going the wrong way [on misdirection plays], bumping into each other," Mecklenburg says. "I had to fight through my own guys as well as the blockers. They cut off our pursuit, so instead of [Smith] getting seven or eight yards when he broke a run, he was getting forty or fifty. We had to bring the safeties up, and that's when [Williams] started killing us with long passes. We kept saying, 'Let's not panic.' But in trying not to panic, we might not have adjusted as quickly as we should have."

"I think we beat 'em up, wore 'em down," says Mark May, the Redskins' 6-6, 295-pound tackle who dominated his matchup with Denver's Andre Townsend, a 6-3, 265-pound end. "They tried to play their slanting game, but we neutralized them with our strength. I'll take a good physical team over a good finesse team any day."

As the Broncos left the field at halftime, there was no talk of a miracle comeback. As Radio City Music Hall's Rockettes danced on the field, while 88 pianos played and Chubby Checker sang, Denver's coaches and players stared at the locker-room floor.

"I kept thinking, 'This is the most embarrassing day of my life and the worst part is, it's only half over,' " Ryan says.

The Redskins coasted through the second half, adding a touchdown on a short run by Smith. The Broncos numbly went through the motions. Elway, who started so auspiciously, finished with 14 completions in 38 pass attempts. He threw 3 interceptions.

For the victors, the numbers were breathtaking. Williams set a Super Bowl record with 340 passing yards. Smith set a Super Bowl record with 204 rushing yards (22 carries, a 9.3-yard average). Sanders's 193 receiving yards (on 9 catches) broke a Super Bowl mark previously held by Pittsburgh's Lynn Swann. The Redskins rolled up 602 total yards, more than half of it (357 yards) in the second quarter.

Tom Callahan wrote in *Time* magazine: "As a contest, Super Bowl XXII ended by halftime. As a lesson, it should last forever." He was referring, of course, to Williams, who fought through years of hardship to win an NFL championship and, in the process, make history. Williams completed 18 of 29 passes, 4 for touchdowns, and was named the game's most valuable player.

May summed up the performance: "Doug will be compared to Jackie Robinson. Not just that he did it, but how he did it."

Few people outside the Redskins' organization knew Williams underwent emergency root canal surgery the day before the game. He was in extreme pain during Saturday's practice and Barry Maxwell, the team dentist, diagnosed the problem: an abcessed molar. Williams had the five-hour procedure performed, tossed down some pain pills, and went to sleep. He awoke Sunday morning, rested and ready to play.

As he got ready for the game, Williams's thoughts drifted back to his hometown of Zachary, Louisiana, where hundreds of friends and family had gathered around the television. His father, who was in a wheelchair and unable to make the trip to San Diego, was in the group. They had fol-

TD #4 2ND QUARTER 11:18

Instant Replay: *Ricky Sanders slipped past the Broncos for his second score of the quarter on a 50-yard reception.*

REDSKINS 28 · BRONCOS 10

GIN ELLIS

DIDIER 8-YARD PASS FROM WILLIAMS

lowed Doug's career from high school through his All-America days at Grambling, to Tampa Bay and the USFL. "It was their day as much as it was mine," Williams says.

Williams, recently named the head coach at Grambling, still meets people who want to talk about that game. Often, they are strangers who don't even care for football but who know a great success story when they see one.

"Lots of times it's older people," says Williams. "They'll say, 'Baby, I was praying for you that day.' It makes me feel good to know what I did touched so many people. I hear it from my players, too. Most of them were nine or ten years old then, but they remember watching the game and hearing their parents talk about it, what it meant.

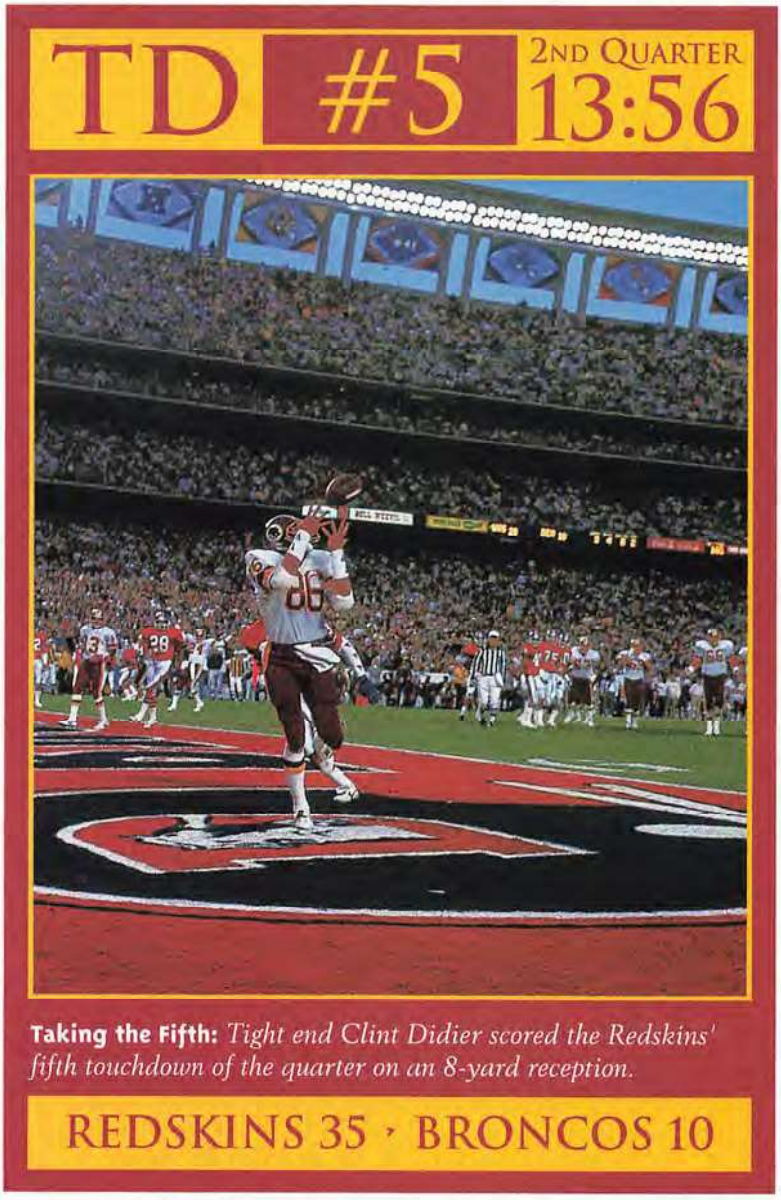
"I'm proud of that, proud of what I did. Anyone who thinks there wasn't more at stake [for a black quarterback] is kidding themselves. It could have been any number of guys in that position. It could have been Warren [Moon], it could have been Randall [Cunningham], but as it turned out, it was me. And I felt like I held up my end of the deal. I did the job."

Williams played only two more seasons before injuries, including six knee surgeries, ended his career in 1989. Timmy Smith's star faded almost overnight. He reported to camp the following year out of shape, still riding his Super Bowl success. He started slowly, was benched by midseason, then released. He played one game for Dallas in 1990 and was cut. At 26, Smith was out of football.

"Tim had talent, but he lacked maturity," Williams says. "I told him, 'You're playing because you took a job away from somebody. If you don't get it together, somebody else is going to take that job away from you.' Timmy could've been a great back, but he didn't have the work ethic. It's a shame."

"That was a funny team," Gibbs says. "We had some stretches that season when we didn't play well. The next season, we had a losing record [7-9] and had to overhaul a lot of things. So you look at that [Super Bowl] and wonder, 'How did that group of guys do what they did—play a perfect quarter of football?'

"Ten years later, I still can't tell you. It was just one of those things. You hear players talk about being in 'the zone' where they can't do anything wrong. That's where we were. First quarter, we couldn't do anything. Second quarter, we couldn't miss. On one play, Timmy ran the wrong play, went the wrong way, and still gained six yards. It was, like, at a certain point the [Broncos'] defense went into shock and we could do anything we wanted."



Taking the Fifth: *Tight end Clint Didier scored the Redskins' fifth touchdown of the quarter on an 8-yard reception.*

GEORGE ROSE

Living in Washington, Steve Wilson still is reminded of that game. The highlights are rerun on television several times a year, usually with "Hail to the Redskins" booming in the background. "When they come on," Wilson says, "I find something else to do." But he hears about it the next day, how someone saw him chase Gary Clark into the end zone for the 200th time.

This season, Wilson got a measure of revenge when his Howard team scored a 52-0 victory over Morehouse College, where Williams then was head coach. It was the first time the two men had faced each other since Super Bowl XXII. They laughed about that when they exchanged hellos before the game. Wilson told Williams he still dreams about one particular play.

"Third-and-fifteen, he threw to Art Monk," Wilson says. "I broke on the ball, I had it. At the last second, it seemed to sail. I missed it by inches. Monk caught it and went forty yards.

"I can still see that pass. Sometimes I feel like I'm still reaching for it."

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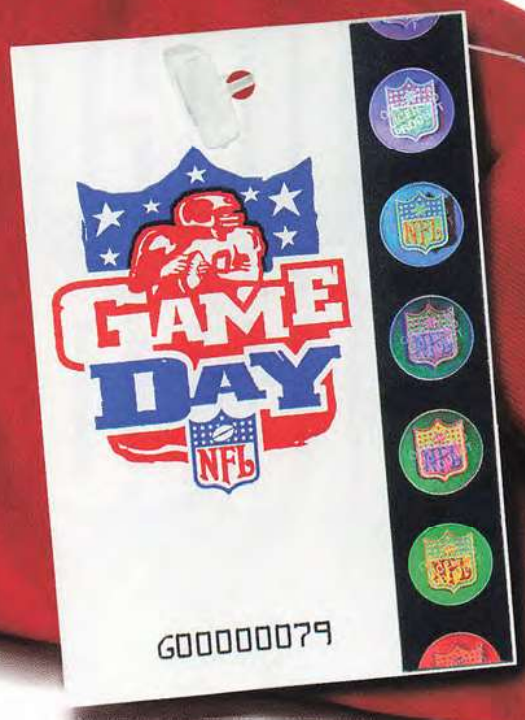

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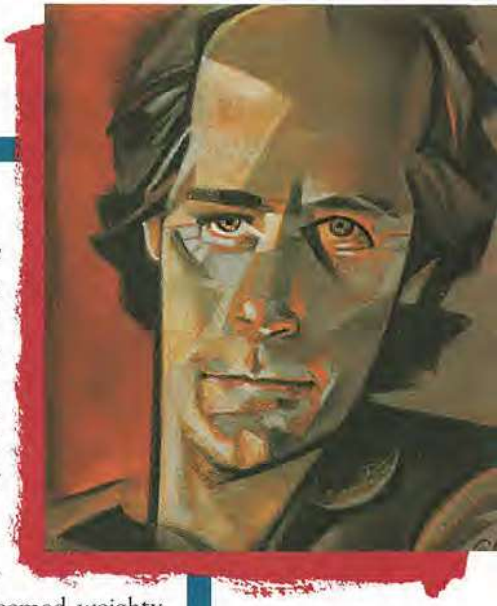


JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH

Even failure can deliver an important message

By Richard Ford

My only true—by which I mean *hands-on*—experience of football took place in 1960, a long time ago now. It was Mississippi. The genteel suburbs of Jackson. I was 16, fatherless. And for reasons I don't yet fully understand, toward the end of my sophomore year in high school, and not long after my father died, I elected to turn out for spring drills, even though I'd never thought of playing football in my life.

Spring is a soft time in Mississippi. There are low, turbulent clouds, winds growing blustery and cool. Often it rains. Great, undulant streams of blackbirds begin to funnel toward the north. It is a museful season, and so in no way a bad time to stand out on a damp practice field in the afternoon, with people whom you know, and to find out you are no good at something.

As elsewhere, then and now, football was sacramental at my school. By playing it, even playing it terribly, a boy could reasonably expect to enjoy instant, pandemic social acceptance, be warmed by the illusions of maturity, savor success at a slightly too-early age, all of which allowed you to radiate physical prowess and oppressive self-confidence, and thus attract the attention of girls. Liberty, equality, fraternity this is sometimes expressed. I do not mean to make light of it. It was and is important.

The ways I was no good at football were not at all long revealing themselves. My height—a lanky 6-2—must have been what finally prompted me to "go out." I had a guilty suspicion I was too big *not* to play football; that, and my not particularly large but reasonably capable hands (I featured myself to be an end). Only I was slow, slow, slow afoot—last at everything requiring speed; so painfully slow as to be ignorant of even the *concept* of foot speed, and unable this day to understand how one person can actually run faster than another.

Beyond that, I remember how cumbersome and heavy the old gladiatorial equipment felt, and how ponderous and impaired I felt wearing it out on the windy practice ground. All the other would-be players, it seemed, carried their bodies somehow *better* than I did, with complete, thoughtless persuasiveness, whereas I was specious and unathletic, a lost cause ever to perform a graceful act. I remember how I hated skinning the much-too-tight helmet onto and off my head, how it scraped and gouged my scalp, and how, once in place, it seemed weighty and boulderish, and to require strict, self-conscious balancing more than actually to invite actual use as a hat. And I remember how I rattled when I ran, and how farfetched it seemed that my body ever could attain the sleek speed necessary to become an effective projectile. I moved, I'm sure, like a sick man moves, and like a sick man I was happiest when standing still.

And I hated the drills, all of them, but especially one where you and your paired-off buddy (mine was another aspiring end named Mike Simmons, who later starred), took three-point stances facing the other, then simply ran smack together. Head-on tackling this was called. And it hurt. I remember my shoulder whamming flush-on into Mike Simmons's brick-like thigh, my head hopefully up, my hands gripped behind his big knees, my cleats digging into the chewed-up turf, determined not to lose ground until the whistle blew or one of us went over. And if it hurt to be tackled, it hurt more, much more, to do the tackling, and I know for fact that each time I charged Mike Simmons I did so with wilting ferocity, hoping to inflict less pain on both of us.

And there was more. I could never budge the blocking sled, and would sometimes simply stop blocking it altogether and stand and stare at the strange, inert contraption as if it had a motor in it that wouldn't work, all while the line coach, riding the other side, kept shouting at me, "Come on,

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

Ford, it won't hurt you. You're s'posed to hurt *it*." And sometimes in the middle of drills or calisthenics or sprints I would simply pause and look up at the quilted sky, thinking who knows what. The wind would be gusting. Blackbirds would be streaming high above. Someone might have been flying a box kite far beyond the distant school buildings. (I cannot think I had any picture of myself actually *playing* football. It wasn't feasible.) Yet this is how it feels to be unmotivated. A feeling of serene isolation. And though someone might say I was quizzical or curious, I was not curious about football.

But consequently all plays designed to sucker and deceive me did. My football player's mentality became one of anticipating the unknown with special loathing. And more than once I remember standing in this very state of fearful abstraction while an actual play was going forward; and while simply staring off, or possibly even looking where I felt I should have been looking, I would be flattened from my blind side by a hurtling halfback or his grunting blocker, and left in the muck.

My only even-remotely-near-real-life "action" came in a meaningless intrasquad game, during which, on the very last play I reluctantly was sent in and told to perform a "button-hook" route. In practice, this play had become "my" play over the spring weeks. Indeed, it was the only one I could be relied on to perform with even minimal uniformity. I simply had to run seven yards downfield, abruptly stop, turn (hook), face the quarterback, and receive the ball (thrown before I hooked) more or less automatically while standing basically still (my favorite route), and then fall backwards (upfield) without turning loose of the ball—all of which I have, over the years, remembered performing flawlessly, after which the final gun sounded.

Yet sadly, my button-hook pass also is clouded by contingency and doubt—a function of age mingled with honest skepticism. I have only lately realized how brittly humiliating it was that this was "my" play, since it was "mine" only because it was so goofily simple. You didn't even have to be a football player to do a button-hook perfectly. And, even though countless times over the 37 years I've relived it—me accepting the softly thrown ball into my soft stomach, me clutching it with my two supposedly capable hands, me heaving breathlessly backwards for the crucial yard as the final seconds of the game and my brief career ticked down—I have now become uncertain if I actually did catch the ball, or if the pass was even thrown to me, or if I was the one sent in, or if such a game was played at all. John Updike wrote once that "...for the novelist, the halls of memory and imagination are adjacent spaces." And I am a novelist. And it is entirely possible that I have bestowed memorial gravity onto pure fantasy as a way of simply surviving football and my own inglorious experience of trying to play the game.

And if I did that, I forgive myself. Maybe being a terrible football player made me a better storyteller. Maybe this is what's meant by football being a "much-storied" game. Art, of course, often seeks residence in those vacant precincts of life where we have failed, retreated, remained untested, wondered but not dared.

My final memory is the quitter's memory—oddly sweet. I am walking up my suburban driveway, crushed by fatigue and irresolute defeat. It is dusk. I am feeling trapped by unwelcome certainties, even as the thought of failure and loss already is giving way to relief and acceptance. To this picture my generous, refurbishing memory, has now added my newly widowed mother waiting for me at the back door with a frank, consoling smile—a pat on the shoulder. And somehow memory has, completely unaccountably, allowed me still to be in my silver-and-blue uniform, my high unwieldy cleats, my silver helmet hanging at my knees.

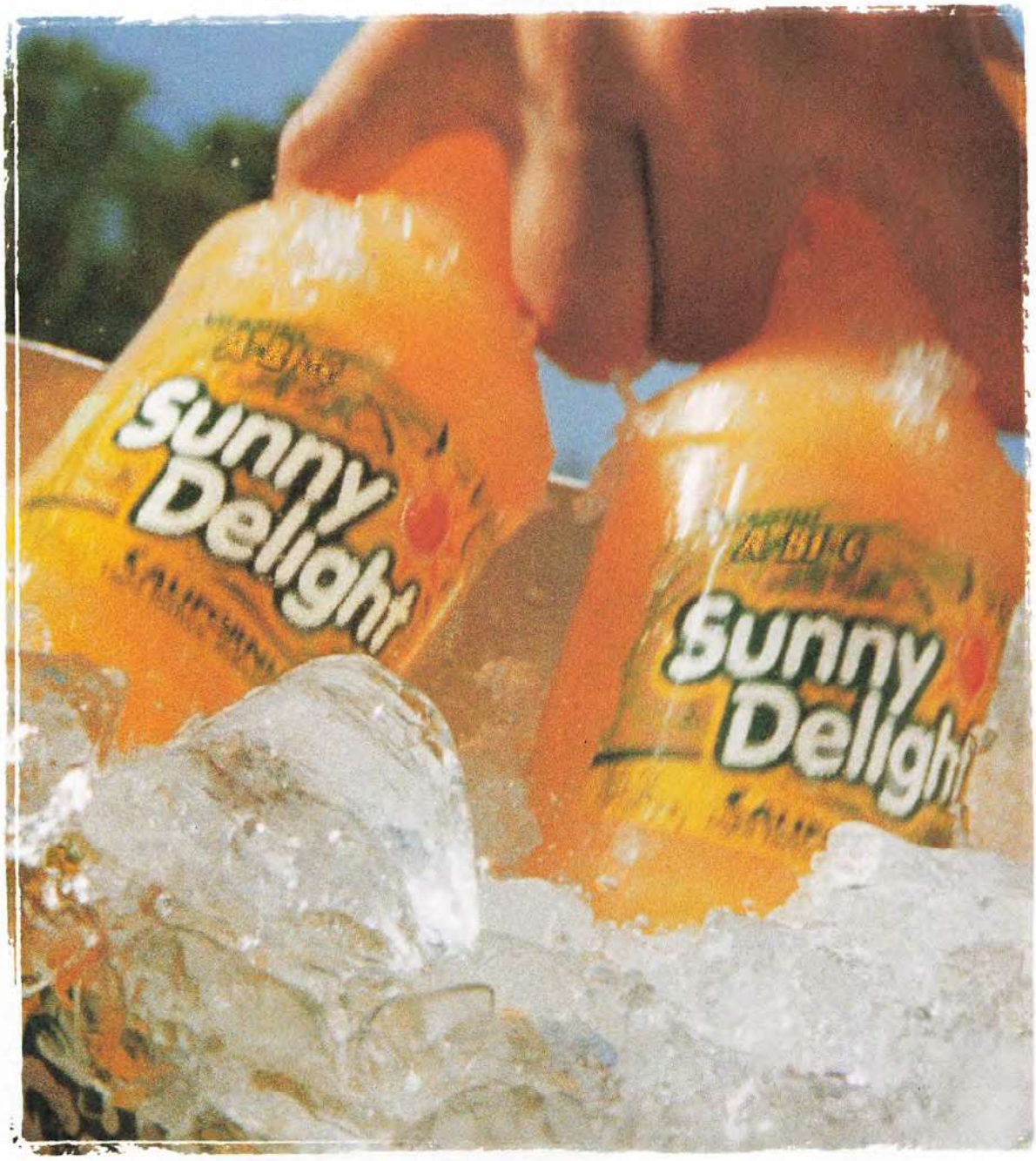
Maybe being a terrible football player made me a better storyteller. Maybe this is what's meant by football being a "much-storied" game. Art, of course, often seeks residence in those vacant precincts of life where we have failed, retreated, remained untested, wondered but not dared.

Quitting, of course, when it actually came, was never so dramatic. I wasn't dropped or ruled off the field or jeered at for not being good enough. There was no big scene. Merely one day I was "out" for football and practicing, then the next day, or some other day, I wasn't, and life had begun then in the new direction it would go—the direction leading to here.

There is no shame in this. No blemish on football's permanent record, and not on mine. Other boys returned the next day, fought, drilled, tackled, caught passes, grew abstracted, suffered, were defeated, and stayed. And I am sure that all the ways I felt at my lowest, most unjoined were ways they felt, too. Except they somehow managed to find the heart of the game, became tuned-in to the coaching, allowed themselves to be provoked instead of bemused by the chance of failure versus success. This was a watershed event, no doubt, a definite dividing line in my life; but perhaps it was not a line between one kind of character and another, less good one, but only between what made them football players and me not.

To realize at a young age, and without heartbreak or profound loss that you simply are not always going to be in on "the big thing," that you are not good enough at something and therefore must get used to it (this time, anyway), and that there are important things you can and must get along without—all this makes a good lesson, one worth learning, inasmuch as it is resolutely true, and its truth breeds sympathy and compassion for oneself and becomes a road marker on the way to unexpected resourcefulness. This lesson seems to me one clear, shining value of sport, and it was football, so long ago now, that taught it to me

GO FOR TWO.



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COOL MAN

WITH STOIC TOM LANDRY, IT USUALLY WAS HIS MIND OVER HIS OPPONENTS' MATTER

BY SCOTT OSTLER

THE HORROR

Monday was the worst day. If you played for the Dallas Cowboys, you dreaded Monday.

You went into Sunday with confidence and swagger. You were tough and unbelievably well prepared. Sunday the world was in your hands. There was magic in the blue star on your helmet.

You owned Sunday.

Monday belonged to Tom Landry.

Landry, the Cowboys' coach, called his Monday sessions "film studies," but they were nothing Siskel and Ebert would care to watch. They were long, grim, and painful. Two thumbs down. There were few heroes and many villains.

Landry stood at the projector with his legal pad of notes, a flashlight to shine on the notes, and his projector control. The entire team was in the room, offense and defense, and Landry went through the game film inch by inch, reviewing every Cowboy on every play. "Chewing butts by the numbers," one player called it.

The coach didn't curse, except for an occasional "darn." He didn't yell, rarely raised his voice, spoke mostly in a low monotone. But he would shrivel your soul if he hauled out his harshest condemnation, his ultimate expression of contempt: "You're an amateur drawing pay."

"One game," wide receiver Drew Pearson says, "I knew I'd messed up on one block. [Running back] Tony Dorsett went seventy-seven yards on the play, but [Redskins cornerback] Darrell Green caught him from behind at the three, and Green was my man to block. I could hardly sleep Sunday night.

"I've seen Landry make the biggest of men slump down and try to hide, and if you've seen Too Tall Jones try to hide in a chair, you've seen something."

You were football's ultimate team, but on Monday, in that room with all your teammates, you were alone.

"It was a worse test than the game," linebacker Lee Roy Jordan says. "It was tough to take. Some guys would actually get sick before they went into that meeting."

After the film study, players would come away with two basic thoughts:

1. "You'd come out," wide receiver Tony Hill says, "saying, 'I can't wait for next Sunday to show him I can make that block.' That's fear and respect."

2. Thank God we won the game.

THE MAN

Landry could pass for the twin brother of the farmer in the *American Gothic*, only in city clothes. Rigid and gaunt, colorless and grim, business hat and business suit and business eyes. On the sideline, alert yet emotionless, Landry looked more like a Secret Service agent than a coach in an emotionally charged sport.

If you played for the Cowboys, people often asked, "What's Landry really like?" And you would tell them he's exactly like what they see on television.

At times you weren't sure if Landry knew who you were. He would absent-mindedly call his all-pro safety Cliff Harris "Phil."

It is as if all the electricity running through Landry's circuits was diverted away from the personality and emotional centers to pump more juice to the football computer in his brain.

This man, who seemed so colorless and so aloof, created, and for 29 years presided over, one of the most colorful, exciting, successful, and controversial teams in football history.

Landry built the Cowboys from scratch, an expansion team born in 1960, then coached them for three decades—including 20 consecutive winning seasons (1966-1985), 18 playoff appearances, 13 division championships, and five Super Bowls. His Cowboys won Super Bowl VI after the 1971 season and Super Bowl XII six years later—20 years ago.

Landry changed the way the game was played, and he did it without breaking a sweat or a smile.

He had the kind of poise under pressure you'd hope to see in your pilot if your plane was in trouble. In fact, returning to base after flying a combat mission over Europe in World War II, Landry's B-17 ran out of fuel. Landry and the pilot landed the bomber in a farmer's field, guiding it between trees that snapped off both wings. No one was injured.

So Landry wasn't likely to lose his cool at a football game, where he wore an expression that Dallas columnist Blackie Sherrod called "a convenient mask to hide behind, a filter for distractions."

"Everyone said how stoic I was on the sidelines, that I didn't show any emotion," says Landry, who is 73 and still living in Dallas. "You have to understand, I was never on the play the fans were seeing. I was on the next play, or two or three plays after that."

When assistant coach Mike Ditka threw a clipboard in anger, Landry told his coaches he would rather lose a game than have that happen again.

"I'm a strong believer that a team is a reflection of the head coach," Dorsett says. "Coach Landry was just all business."

Harris found it comforting "to look over and see my head coach calm. We're behind, but everything's under control. He's calm and he's thinking."

Landry never was close to his players. He wasn't the kind of coach you drowned in Gatorade to celebrate a big win.

"That would have been the day, when they poured that stuff on me," Landry says with a trace of a smile. "I'm not sure what would have happened."

He was aloof and dignified and stern. But he could surprise you.

Linebacker Thomas (Hollywood) Henderson's first impression of Landry: stodgy, old, bald guy with a distinct limp from an old knee injury.

First day of training camp, Landry sent the Cowboys on a torturous two-mile run up a mountain road. Hollywood took off, a brash rookie determined to show the veterans what he could do. Halfway up the hill, Hollywood got passed by an old, bald guy with a limp.

In the Beginning: *Landry (top left) cut his coaching teeth with the Giants and Jim Lee Howell (center), joined by (clockwise, from top right) Ken Kavanaugh, Johnny Dell Isola, and Vince Lombardi.*

NFL PHOTOS

What the Cowboys develped was more than a respect or trust for their coach. As Lee Roy Jordan says: "We believed."

AMERICA'S TEAM

Landry was diagramming a blitz in which three linebackers and the strong safety attacked the quarterback. That left free safety Harris to cover the fullback and the running back.

"I asked Landry," Harris says, "'What if they both go out on pass routes? Which one do I cover?' He said—and he was serious—'Cover the one they throw the ball to.'"

There was a mystical component to being a Cowboys player.

For 20 years, the Cowboys had an aura, an attitude, a mystique. They dazzled and dominated.

The Cowboys were dubbed "America's Team" by NFL Films, and they wore the label proudly for years.

They were ahead of their time. Landry brought to the Cowboys the Flex defense he had designed as a Giants' assistant coach. When other teams copied elements of Landry's defense, he invented a revolutionary multiple-set offense to attack his defense.

"In those days," Landry says, "everyone was doing what Vince Lombardi was doing—lining 'em up and knocking 'em down. We never did that. We always tried to out-finesse 'em."

Landry was a pioneer in situational substitution, the rebirth of the Shotgun formation, computerized scouting and drafting, psychological testing, and physical conditioning.

His impact on the NFL has been likened to the impact of the 24-second clock on NBA basketball.

But as advanced and glamorous as Landry's system was, it only worked if his players had faith.

"My first year," wide receiver Pearson says, "Coach Landry would tell me what a certain defensive back would do in a specific situation from a specific hashmark, and I'm thinking, 'Yeah, right. Nobody can know that much about every opposing player and situation.'

"Then we get in that exact situation in the game, and the guy does exactly what Landry told me he would do. I became a believer.

"I WAS NEVER ON THE PLAY THE FANS WERE SEEING. I WAS ON THE NEXT PLAY, OR TWO OR THREE PLAYS AFTER THAT."

—Tom Landry

"I tried doing it my way for a while, and it was like beating my head against the wall. So I tried it his way and, bam, it worked! It was easy. That was a big part of how he motivated us. Not by hollering and speeches, but giving us the confidence of knowing our jobs, knowing if we executed his game plan we would win."

It wasn't enough for a player merely to memorize his own assignments. He had to internalize the system, comprehend the overall concept.

"A lot of us weren't scientists," Henderson says. "We skated through college, didn't study. But Tom Landry demanded that you become familiar with what he was doing. You had no choice but to learn. He created men who could think."

The Cowboys worked longer and harder than other teams. They would read with envy how Vikings coach Bud Grant saw birds fly over the practice field and gave his team the rest of the day off to go duck hunting. Landry would see birds fly over and think of a new offensive formation.

More was expected of a Cowboy. A greater effort, a deeper sense of duty to the team. Pearson learned that lesson when he was well along in his career and he began to feel that the Cowboys were phasing him out in favor of Butch Johnson.

After a preseason game in which he didn't play much, Pearson blew up. He threw his helmet across the locker room, cornered assistant coach Dan Reeves and screamed, "If the Cowboys don't want me, trade me!"

"Next day, I'm in my pool," Pearson says. "I get a phone call. It's Landry. He says, 'Come see me.' I'm all fired up, I'm hot, I'm going to let him know how I feel.

"I sit down in his office and he goes into this 'team' thing. He gives me no assurances of playing time, never says 'You're the man,' or 'We're counting on you,' nothing like that.

"He talks and talks about being a team. I start to realize that what I did was put myself ahead of the team. Pretty soon I'm saying, 'I'm really sorry for taking your time, Coach. I'll be fine. You won't have to worry about me.' From then on I worked harder than ever and kept my mouth shut."

Playing football for Landry was a step beyond intense.

"We took Tom Landry home with us," safety Charlie Waters says. "We carried his coaching philosophy and his mannerisms within us. The way he coached the team was almost like a haunting."

PETER READ MILLER

MANNY RUBIO

RUSS RUSSELL

TONY TOMSIC

Landry's Cowboys: *The men who played for Tom Landry came in all sizes, shapes, and temperaments, including (from top) Tony Dorsett, Thomas Henderson, Cliff Harris, and Lee Roy Jordan.*

THE DOWNFALL

Wide receiver Pete Gent once saw a rookie carrying a Cowboys' playbook. "Don't bother reading that," Gent told the kid. "Everyone dies in the end."

And there was no happy ending for the Landry Era.

Times changed. Young players had less respect for the Establishment. In 1971, running back Duane Thomas, one of the Cowboys' first rebels, called Landry "a plastic man...actually, no man at all."

Cowboys mystique-bashing came into vogue. Gent, then retired, wrote the unflattering and semifictional *North Dallas Forty* and Dallas columnist Skip Bayless wrote *God's Coach: The Hymns, Hype and Hypocrisy of Tom Landry's Cowboys*.

Stars Thomas, Henderson, and wide receiver Bob Hayes were among football's '70s-era drug casualties. Critics said Landry was in denial of his team's drug problems.

"That was a tough time," Landry says now. "As a coach, we just didn't have any knowledge of what drugs were. I would not know a drug if I saw one."

The world in general was becoming looser, and Landry was not a loosey-goosey guy. Johnson's "California Quake" touchdown dance caused Landry to squirm inwardly as much as Johnson was squirming outwardly.

One rainy day, linebacker Steve (Yosemite Sam) Kiner parked in Landry's parking space.

"Who took my parking spot?" Landry demanded.

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"Coach," Kiner boomed, "when it's raining, it's every man for himself."

Landry looked blankly at Kiner and said, "Steve, don't do that again."

Henderson says, "I'd embarrass him. He'd start to tell me something and I'd say, 'Coach, you never played no linebacker.' He would look at me dumbfounded but he just kept going like he didn't hear me."

Some say Landry, the great innovator, simply ran short of innovation.

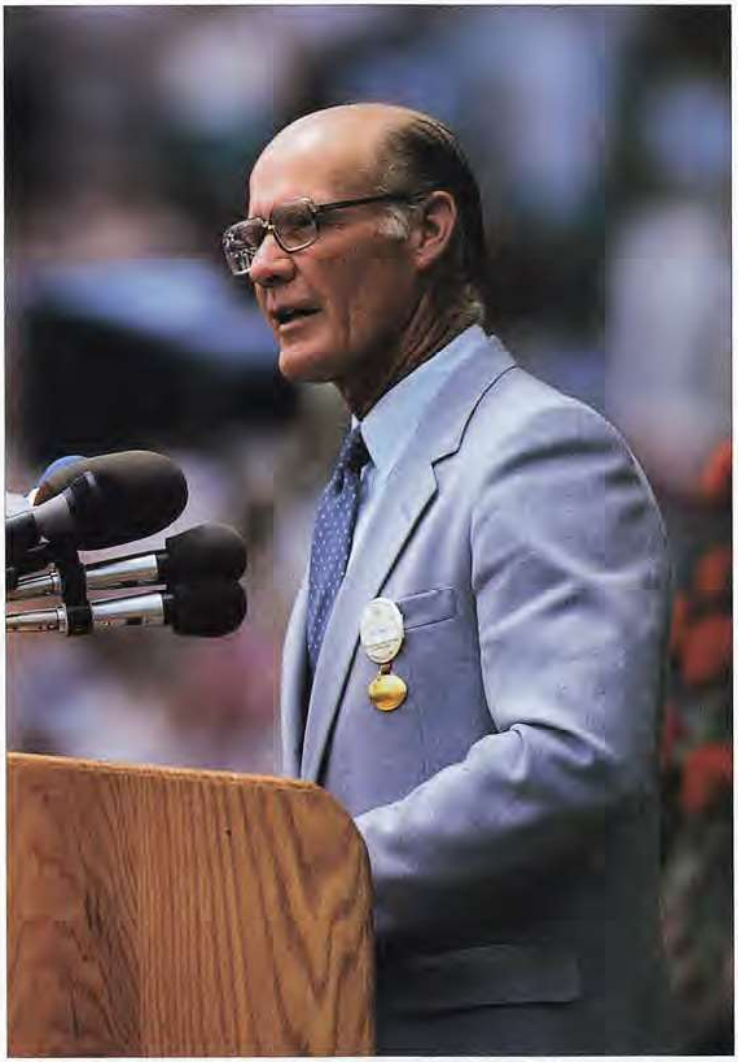
"You run the same play from the same formation for ten years, someone's going to figure that out," Dorsett says. "We'd go to Washington, line up in the Brown formation, and [Redskins defensive tackle] Dave Butz would be over there pointing at me and yelling, 'Here he comes!'"

Some former players say they wish Landry had taken the wraps off the offense.

"We were just too conservative for the talent we had," Hill says. "We never got a chance to see what the true Cowboys could do."

Landry taught his players to think and to analyze. The danger of that is that they began to analyze the teacher.

"Sometimes," Harris says, "particularly in Super Bowls, we overprepared. Pittsburgh had a simple attack. I wish our attack on their dad-gum simple offense had been more dad-gum simple."



PETE GROH

Final Tribute: *In 1990, barely a year after he left coaching, Landry was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.*

After a 10-6 season in 1985, the Cowboys fell to 7-9, then 7-8, then 3-13. Then Jerry Jones bought the team in 1989 and immediately fired Landry.

He went quietly, but it was clear that Landry was bitter over the rude eviction from the house he had built from scratch.

Henderson has an interesting spin on the firing.

"Tom wouldn't have had it any other way," Henderson says. "Think, over the years, how many men Tom Landry had to tell, 'You're not doing the job anymore, we have to let you go.' And every time he did that, it took a part of him away. He probably cut a couple thousand guys. You think he wanted to be treated differently than he treated them?

"When Landry refused to resign, that was him saying, 'Hey, give me what I got comin', guys.' You think after three losing seasons Tom Landry wanted a 2,000-person dinner sendoff? He knew he hadn't been winning."

The year after Landry was fired, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

THE PRESENT

When Landry left football, he left football.

He stayed in Dallas, but he moved a million miles away from the Cowboys and the game.

"The Lord led me in a certain way [in 1960]," Landry says. "What I felt He wanted me to do was coach football, so I coached football, until we had too many owners."

A decade has somewhat softened the jagged edges of the break between the organization and its first coach. In 1993, Landry finally accepted induction into the Cowboys' Ring of Honor. That ceremony, and the Ring of Honor ceremony for Dorsett, are the only two occasions on which Landry has been in Texas Stadium since he left coaching.

"I don't ignore football," Landry says, "but I feel like I have a different calling in my life now."

Landry crisscrosses the country as a speaker, mostly on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He speaks on Christian values and commitment to excellence.

"I'm on the go most of the time, and it's good," he says. "I guess I was made to move around."

Landry says he watches an occasional NFL game on television, and "I find myself enjoying it when [the Cowboys] are playing well."

He says he still sees the Tom Landry influence in NFL multiple-set offenses, but defenses have evolved into a different world.

Some of his players say Landry is as cold and aloof now as when he was coaching. His wife Alicia is the social half of the marriage.

"I'm very appreciative of what Tom did for us," the former all-pro safety Waters says. "We're both in Dallas, and I'd love to see him every day. But I don't think I could take it. He's too damn intense."

But many former Cowboys, including Henderson, believe Landry has let his barriers down.

"I'm at a charity golf tournament not long ago," Henderson says. "I'm standing around talking to a group of ex-Cowboys. Landry comes up and walks right into the middle of the group, stands there like he's one of the guys. He doesn't say anything, but his attitude is like, 'Wussup?' It was a great moment."

Landry keeps in great shape, plays 15-handicap golf, and still flies his own airplane. He was flying from Austin to Dallas in 1995 when the lone engine in his Cessna conked out. Alicia and their 4-year-old granddaughter were on board.

Landry calmly dropped the plane below the clouds, saw that he still was five miles from the nearest airport, and set the plane down softly on the Ennis High School football field.

"Landry," wrote Dallas columnist Frank Luksa, "continues to fly with the angels."

THE LEGACY

"I hated Tom Landry," Henderson says, recalling his first season with the Cowboys. "I hated him thinking he was better than me."

Gradually the two men came to respect one another, and the day Landry had to cut Hollywood, the old coach was blinking back tears.

Somehow the irreverent, drug-troubled black man and the grim, Bible-reading white man from small-town Texas had touched one another's lives.

Henderson recalls a moment during one of the dreaded "film studies." The previous week, a Dallas football writer told readers to "watch [Patriots tight end Russ] Francis drag Hollywood all over the field Sunday." Hollywood ate Francis's lunch.

At the film study, Landry cleared his throat and told the team, "To compliment Thomas Henderson is like putting fuel on a fire, but I'll tell you something: Thomas Henderson was under a lot of pressure yesterday, and he came through. Thomas Henderson is a pro."

A pro.

"I never heard him call anyone else a pro," Henderson says.

Drugs cut short Henderson's career, and eventually landed him in prison. Now he has been sober for 14 years, and he runs his own company.

"Tom and I were at the same conference a few years ago in Scottsdale," Henderson says. "I wanted to talk to him in the worst way. With my twelve-step program, I needed to make amends to people I had hurt.

"I got up at five-thirty one morning, went to the coffee shop, and, as God would have it, there was Tom Landry reading the paper. It was him and me, and the rest of the world had gone away.

"I sat down and Tom Landry apologized to me for not knowing what to do with me when I was in my darkest hour. He apologized. Here I'm in my twelve-step program, making amends, and he beats me to the punch."

PAUL MOSELEY

Familiar Figure: *In looking back over his three decades in Dallas, Landry says simply: "It was a good time."*

Pearson was badly injured in a car accident in 1984, ending his career.

"I was in the hospital and groggy for a long time," Pearson says, "and every time I woke up I'd see Harvey Martin and Roger Staubach, who are my good friends. The other face that was always there was Tom Landry. Minicamp had started, but he was there every day, comforting my family, offering them assistance."

A startling number of Landry-era Cowboys have gone on to great success in life and business, including Thomas and Henderson. Many of the players say they still take Landry home with them.

"Tom was a big influence on me," Jordan says. "His way of preparation, his way of designing a plan, improving the plan, sticking with it, is basically the way I do business now."

"He taught me to live by my convictions," Hill says.

"He's a phenomenal man," Dorsett says.

Landry looks back on the players he taught, and who maybe taught him, and he says, "It's amazing, it really is a group of outstanding people, a lot of successful leaders, and that's what made us what we were. They're a good group of boys."

For 29 years Tom Landry was coach of the Cowboys, and how do you sum up 29 years?

"It was a good time," he says.

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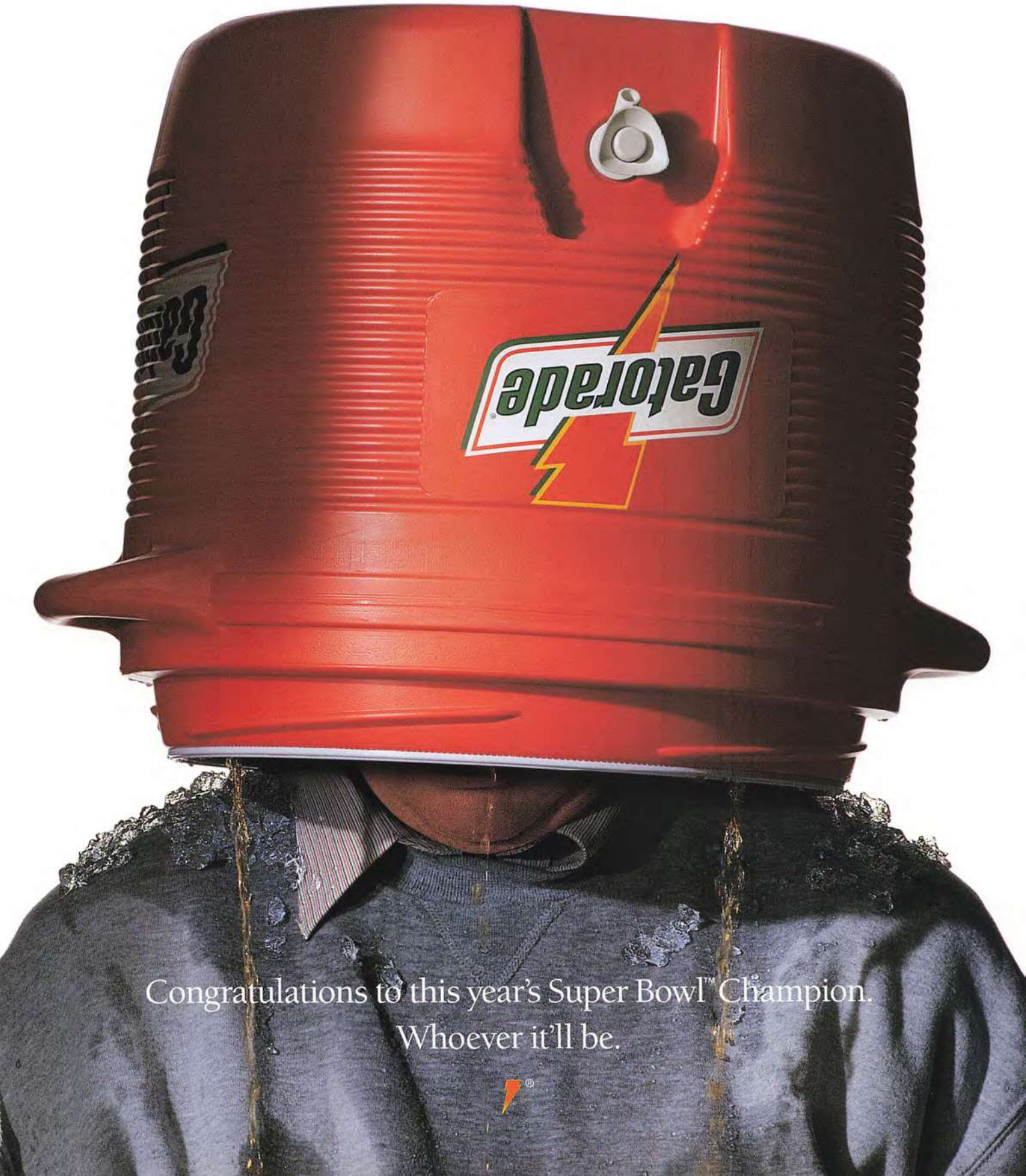

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Okay, Everbody, Cow Down!

It isn't Super Bowl Sunday without super cuisine

By Al Martinez

Every year, to prove that I'm as macho as the dude next door, I watch the Super Bowl on television, unless I am fortunate enough to actually attend the game. I not only watch it, I invite some of the guys over to drink beer, dine on my cuisine (I mean chow down on my eats) and generally enjoy the 22 well-paid players on the screen attempting to flatten each other. For weeks prior to the day of the game I practice bellowing, barking, and shouting "WAY TO GO!" in order to blend in with the rest of the urban cowboys, mountain bikers, and dry wall plasterers. It's not easy.

In truth, I find it difficult being one of the guys, but I feel I somehow owe it to society to join 150 million other Americans in a tradition that has become as powerful as Christmas. It is a time of bonding not necessarily with one's family but with the men one would otherwise have nothing to do with the rest of the year. Think of it as a hitch in the military in which deep friendships are made and vows to meet years later are pledged and then forgotten the day you get your discharge papers.

I always have been a standoffish kind of guy, opting, for an evening with the L.A. Philharmonic or a jazz recital at the Hollywood Bowl over a poker game. I prefer a crisp coq de bruyere to burgers and fries and a nice bottle of vintage Blanquette de Limoux to a can of beer. And although it probably is the most popular food item on Super Bowl Sunday, I am emotionally incapable of eating pepperoni pizza, or any kind of pizza for that matter. It sticks in my throat when I try, and I'll be damned if I'll be strangled on my own dinner.

But I try to adjust. There are middle roads a guy can travel in the effort to abide by the Rules of Manhood, so each year on Super Bowl Sunday I open my Topanga house to every testosterone-oriented dude I know.

My wife, a gourmet cook, would rather watch *Masterpiece Theater* or the *Wild World of Animals* or *Biography* or an analysis of the trade war with Japan, anything but football. She leaves the house while The Game is in session. She similarly leaves to me the job of cooking, suggesting cheerfully that maybe us guys would just like raw knuckle bones to gnaw on instead of anything we actually might have to think about before eating.

I may be a little wry about Super Bowl Sunday but I do understand its importance in the American tradition. It plays a fundamental role in the conduct of our lives if only for this one day. Every Super Bowl Sunday, for instance, crime takes a dive, freeways and city streets are empty, and, I am told, fewer people die. I'm not all that sure that fewer people die. It may just be that no one is willing to haul the dead away until The Game is over.

I find it especially intriguing that crime is down during the game, suggesting that we all—drive-by shooters and church-going CPAs alike—are joined together in a mutuality of spirit for at least that one glorious day. It is a rewarding thought, indeed, unless one stops to think that the guy sitting next to you might be wanted in 12 states.

The first year I hosted a Super Bowl Sundayfest I didn't understand the rules. Topanga, which is a community in the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean, is a unique mix of artists, conservationists, and cowboys, so I figured that, due to the more sophisticated elements around them, the cowboys would have developed certain tastes for the better things in life, including, say, chunky vegetable chili, moist corn bread, and amusing little maple-pecan caramel crisps. It was what I served them on that first historic day, assuming that a low-fat, low-cholesterol kind of meal was what health-conscious Topangans would prefer over pork chops and spuds. I was wrong.

They wanted burgers or pizza or a meaty chili that a guy could actually, you know, chew while

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

swilling his beer, not the prissy kinds of nibble-food found at tea parties and chamber-music recitals. Think back to the days when Clara Peller was shouting "Where's the beef?" on national television, add a dozen deep male voices to the chorus, and you'll have an echo of the response to my chunky vegetable chili. It wasn't a positive one.

"The problem," my wife said later, "is that you are not cooking for, well, ordinary people on a day of brain-smashing sport. These are not, after all, professors of Runic prose or poets of the haiku school. These are guys who, but for their wives, might be eating from bowls on the floor. So forget the wispy vegetarian chili and the neat little bar cookies. Go for the gusto, Mac!"

Her reference to Mac reminded me that I was a Marine for two splendid years of mud and grime and people shooting at me, so surely there ought to be something in that history to suggest the kinds of chow that real men liked. Unfortunately, however, the only items I can recall from that brief tour of duty are a cold, greasy hash eaten from a C-ration can and a pale, creamy chipped-beef on toast that carried a description it is not possible to repeat in this format. And then it dawned on me: I would cook my famous pasta.

Well, actually, it isn't famous outside the family and a few friends, but everyone seems to like it so I cook it whenever I am depressed, which is often. I use linguini as the pasta and fix a puttanesca sauce, which I am shy to say, is also known as a "whore's sauce" in the world of cookery. It contains pretty much what you want it to contain, including beer or a cheap red wine, but I leave out the alcohol, because I don't want my little grandchildren staggering away from the dinner table singing sailor songs.

Basically, the sauce, which I prepare in the morning and allow to simmer all day, consists of ground beef, cans of diced tomatoes, freshly chopped onions, garlic, oregano, capers, black olives, and two packets of prepared spaghetti spices. I don't usually mention that because purists dislike anything prepackaged but inasmuch as this is for football fans and not gourmet cooks, who cares? I served it the year the New York Giants beat Buffalo 20-19, and because it was one hell of a game, the human descendants of Pavlov's dog who ate my pasta associate it with pleasure and therefore recall the meal with a certain fondness, the way a man remembers the first duck he shot.

Speaking of which, for a while I considered a recipe for duck I had come across in a French cookbook, before I realized that French cooking probably was not what the boys in the living room would prefer. The recipe called for acquiring a live duck and smothering it so that the blood would congeal inside the bird, thereby making it more, well, succulent. But despite my tenure as a U.S. Marine, I have no training in smothering ducks. I did, however, mention it to a former Green Beret who was to be a guest of my Super Bowl blowout. He said that while he didn't particularly like duck, he wouldn't mind smothering one, which offers flashing insight into the moral imperatives associated with those I invited over. I served a pot roast instead that year. No one had to smother the cow.

I mention all this, I suppose, to emphasize the importance of tradition on Super Bowl Sunday. It varies from place to place, but let me assure you that in San Diego, where many Navy and Marine veterans abide, they are more oriented toward red meat than tuna salads. In other areas of southern California, most notably Malibu and La Jolla, you will find pockets of those who prefer bottled water to bottled beer and watercress sandwiches on six-grain bread to buffalo ribs, but the likelihood is they will be watching Japanese samurai movies on videotape and not the Super Bowl.

The popularity of the game, I mean The Game, became clear when it was observed in 1970 that more people watched Kansas City beat Minnesota 23-7 than watched American astronaut Neil Armstrong walk on the moon the year before.

Notwithstanding the absent intelligentsia, crowding around the old television set on Super Bowl Sunday is not only an American tradition but a global one, too. While an estimated 150 million viewers in this country see The Game, another 700 million also see it worldwide. There are no statistics relating to other galaxies, but one must assume they see it out there, too. The popularity of the game, I mean The Game, became clear when it was observed in 1970 that more people watched Kansas City beat Minnesota 23-7 than watched American astronaut Neil Armstrong walk on the moon the year before. The lunar landing, I guess, may have been a giant step for mankind but it wasn't Len Dawson leading the Chiefs to victory.

My concern as I write weeks in advance of Super Bowl Sunday remains, as always, what to serve the boys clustered around my television set on the day of The Game. This has been going on, more or less, for about eight years, and while they're appreciative of my pasta, I think they're tired of it. I hear a low growling as they chow down. From some mammals, the primitive snarl might indicate contentment, but from the guys who watch football this is not a positive sound.

I'm thinking of grilling steaks for Super Bowl XXXII on the theory that a good chunk of meat will soothe any carnivore, the way the carcass of an impala satisfies a lion. He does not actually have to be eating it, just having it near offers a certain comfort. Perhaps I will cook the steaks, hide them, and let my guests sniff them out. They can bring the meat back in their teeth to either eat or just hug while they swill their beer, yell, hoot, holler, and bark until The Game has ended. And to hell with those amusing little maple-pecan caramel crisps.

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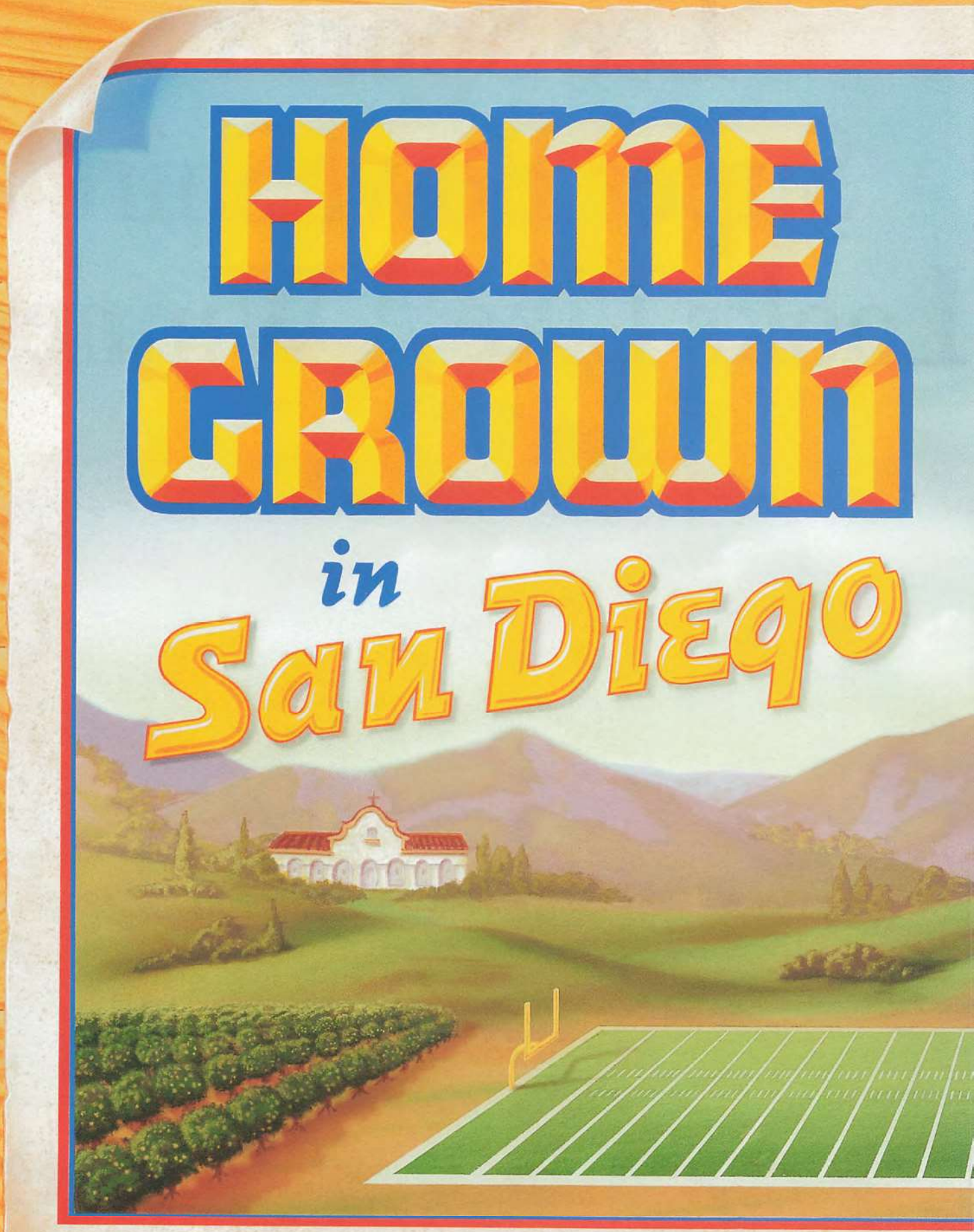

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LED BY SUPER BOWL XVIII MVP MARCUS ALLEN, SAN DIEGO HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE PRODUCED A BUMPER CROP OF NFL STARS

BY BRIAN PETERSON

In barber shops, restaurants, and on the street corners of San Diego, they still talk about *the* game.

More than 12,000 people filed into San Diego (now Qualcomm) Stadium on December 10, 1977, to watch two of the the city's most successful high school football teams, the Lincoln Hornets and Kearny Komets, battle for the championship of the San Diego Section of the California Interscholastic Federation.

Lincoln, which entered the game with an 11-0-1 record and the top-rated offense and defense in San Diego County, had won two San Diego Section titles since the section was formed in 1960. Kearny was 11-1 and had won three previous section championships.

But that isn't what people remember when they recall Lincoln's 34-6 victory. What they remember is the virtuoso performance of a quiet, unassuming 17-year-old athlete.

Marcus Allen, a well-mannered young man from southeast San Diego, already had established himself as a local prep football legend at Lincoln. In his senior year, the 6-foot 2-inch, 200-pound quarterback/defensive back passed for 1,434 yards and 9 touchdowns, rushed for 1,098 yards and 12 touchdowns, and intercepted 11 passes, 4 of which he returned for scores.

Three publications named Allen a first-team high school All-America. The *San Diego Union-Tribune* named him the Schoolboy Athlete of the Year.

Against Kearny, Allen carried the ball 9 times for 197 yards and scored 4 touchdowns on runs of 85, 30, 20, and 10 yards. In the fourth quarter, he intercepted a pass and returned it 60 yards for another touchdown. His 5 touchdowns, 30 points, and 85-yard run all were CIF-San Diego Section playoff records.

"I meet people from all over the county who remember what Marcus did in that Kearny game," says Vic Player, who coached both Allen (1974-77)

and Broncos star running back Terrell Davis (1986-89) at Lincoln. "Marcus was absolutely amazing that night. He could do no wrong.

"I've always said he was a man playing among boys. He had the physical size, the mental toughness, and something I've never been able to quite put my finger on—a special magnetism that got those around him to play better."

As part of a promotion that recognized outstanding achievement on the football field, a rental car company chose Allen's performance as the best in high school football in California in 1977. Before Allen graduated from Lincoln, the school retired his jersey number.

Allen's storybook career continued at the University of Southern California, where, as a senior, he won the 1981 Heisman Trophy after becoming the first college player to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season. An NFL career of Hall-of-Fame magnitude followed.

But Allen didn't forget San Diego. Nor did the oceanside city forget him.

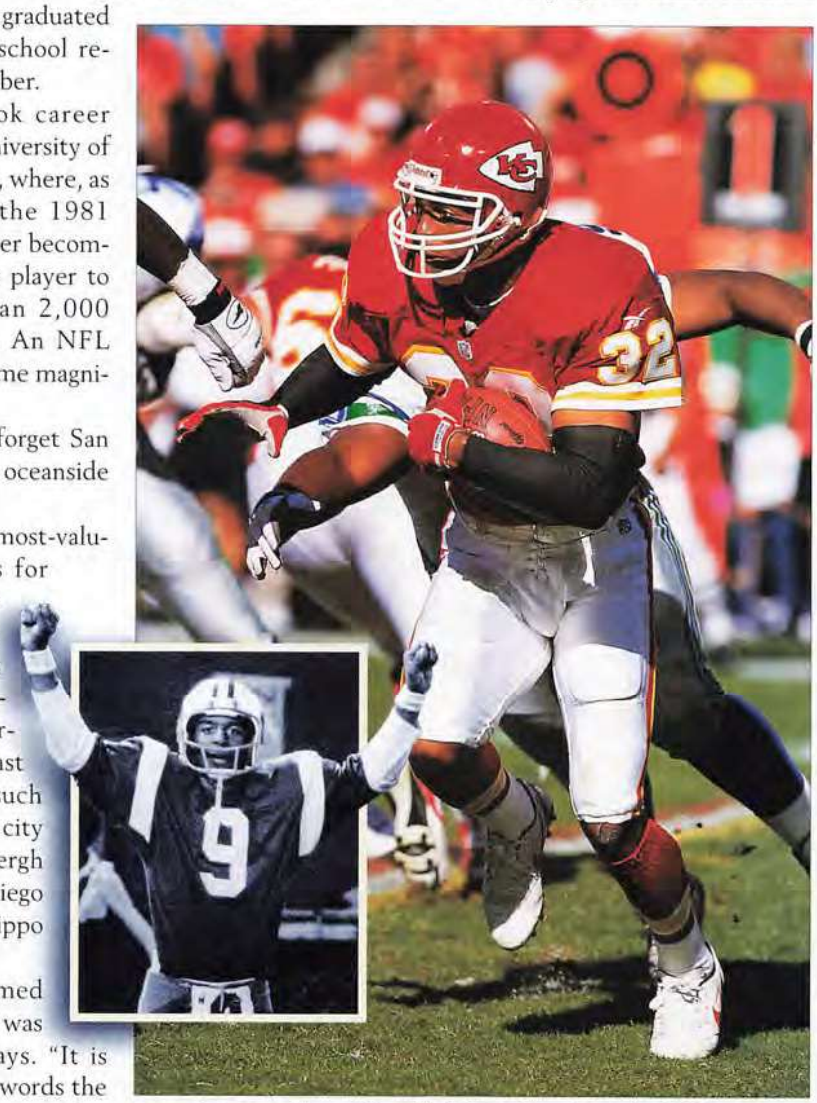
After he earned most-valuable-player honors for the Los Angeles Raiders in Super Bowl XVIII, San Diego gave its favorite son a ticker-tape parade. The last person to receive such an honor from the city was Charles Lindbergh in 1941. The San Diego Zoo even named a hippo after Allen.

"I was overwhelmed by all the attention I was receiving," Allen says. "It is difficult to put into words the emotions I felt. How many individuals in life get a ticker-tape parade?"

"I had never seen anything like it," Player says. "People were throwing confetti out their windows. It was like being in a snowstorm."

Before Allen's emergence, most youngsters who grew up in San Diego's temperate climate spent their leisure time playing baseball or hanging out at the beach.

"My friends and I never aspired to play football at a level any higher than maybe junior college or San Diego State," says former Cleveland Browns quarterback Brian Sipe, who attended Grossmont High in La Mesa and San Diego State. "A few guys were invited to play at major colleges, but not many.



DENNIS HULS

DAVID BTLUKA

Favorite Son: *From Lincoln High (inset) to the NFL, Marcus Allen has been one of San Diego's brightest stars.*

"I was a surfer. I'm talking about the sixties—the Beach Boys, longboards, and girls. Any time I wasn't required to be in class or on the practice field, I was on the beach."

Football might have been an afterthought to some, but that didn't mean there weren't a lot of excellent high school football players in San Diego.

In 1955, San Diego High became the city's only high school football team to be crowned mythical national champions. The 1954 and 1955 San Diego High teams featured three future NFL players: defensive backs Willie West and Dave Grayson, Sr., and receiver Art Powell.

Russ (Racehorse) Saunders, who also attended San Diego High, was the first local prep star to play in the NFL when he signed with the Packers in 1931. During the next 50 years, San Diego consistently turned out professional football players.

Kickers Tom Dempsey (San Dieguito High School), whose 63-yard field goal for the New Orleans Saints still is an NFL record, and Rolf Benirschke (La Jolla), who played 10 seasons with the San Diego Chargers and finished his career as their all-time scoring leader, were among the most recognizable San Diegans to play in the NFL before 1982.

Cornerback Willie Buchanon (Oceanside) was named to three Pro Bowls during his 11-year career (1972-1982) with the Green Bay Packers and the Chargers. Cornerback Monte Jackson (St. Augustine) was a two-time Pro Bowl selection (1976-77) with the Rams.

In 1956, Washington Redskins tackle Volney Peters (Hoover) became the first San Diego native to compete in the Pro Bowl. Guard Ed White (Helix), a powerful blocker, made it to the Pro Bowl four times with the Vikings (1975-77) and the Chargers (1979).

San Diego produced quality players, but still didn't get much recognition. Cities such as Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas, and Pittsburgh were considered the hotbeds of high school football talent.

"San Diego always has had great football talent," says St. Louis Rams public relations director Rick Smith, who graduated from Lincoln in 1957 and covered high school football for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* from 1960-1972. "But

because of geography and size it always played second fiddle to Los Angeles in notoriety."

"In the thirties, forties, and fifties, San Diego was known mainly for its baseball players," says Don King, San Diego Hall of Champions historian. "In the sixties and seventies, football began to catch up.

"Marcus pushed football to the forefront. There is no question that his performances caused folks around the country to put more focus on the high school talent in San Diego. He deserves a lot of credit for what happened after him."

Across a span of 51 years, from 1931-1981, 74 high school players from San Diego made it to professional football. In just 16 years since Allen joined the NFL, 76 San Diego prep players have followed in his footsteps.

One player who followed Allen, was cornerback Eric Allen (no relation), who grew up in the same neighborhood as Marcus. As part of a desegregation program, Eric was bused to Point Loma High. His team tied El Camino High of Oceanside for the San Diego Section title in 1982.

Eric Allen attended Arizona State and was a second-round draft choice by Philadelphia in 1988. In his 10 seasons with the Eagles (1988-1994) and New Orleans Saints (starting in 1995), he has equaled his namesake in Pro Bowl selections with six.

"Marcus was the neighborhood icon," Eric says. "He was larger than life. He set the standard for future players at Lincoln and schools across San Diego.

"He showed everyone that we could get into college by using our athletic talents. The first time I ever thought I'd be able to go to college was when Marcus accepted his scholarship to USC."

Chargers linebacker Junior Seau (Oceanside High) is another local product who has earned a place among the National Football League's elite. Seau, who has been named to seven Pro Bowls, followed Allen to USC. He was San Diego's first-round draft choice in 1990.

"Marcus got so much attention while he was in high school that college scouts had to come and see if there were more kids from San Diego who were outstanding athletes," Seau says. "I definitely looked up to Marcus and have a lot of respect for the things he accomplished."

Currently, there are 30 NFL players who are San Diego-area products, including Bears running back Rashaan Salaam (La Jolla Country Day), the 1994 Heisman Trophy winner; Seahawks defensive tackle Dan Saleaumua (Sweetwater in National City), who went to the Pro Bowl after the 1995 season; and Patriots linebacker Ted Johnson (Carlsbad).

In 1997, three San Diego products were among the first 11 players chosen in the NFL draft. The Raiders took defensive tackle Darrell Russell (St. Augustine) with the second overall choice, the Lions chose cornerback Bryant Westbrook (El Camino) with the fifth pick, and cornerback Michael Booker (El Camino) went to Atlanta at number 11.

Lincoln leads all San Diego high schools with 23 former players who have made it to the NFL. San Diego High is second with 14 players, followed by Hoover (nine), Helix (seven), and Oceanside (seven). Kearny, St. Augustine, El Camino, and Point Loma each has six.

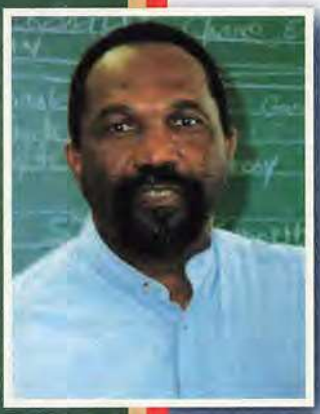
"I think it's amazing that a high school as small as Lincoln [average enrollment: less than 1,000] could produce so many NFL players," says former San Diego Chargers defensive end Earl Faison, who has been a teacher, coach, and administrator in the San Diego public school system since 1969. "There can't be too many high schools in the country that have had the success that Lincoln has had."

Faison became the first black high school football head coach in San Diego County when Lincoln hired him in 1969. He was named the San Diego high school coach of year in 1972 and coached the Hornets until 1973. Currently, he is the assistant prinicipal at University High School.

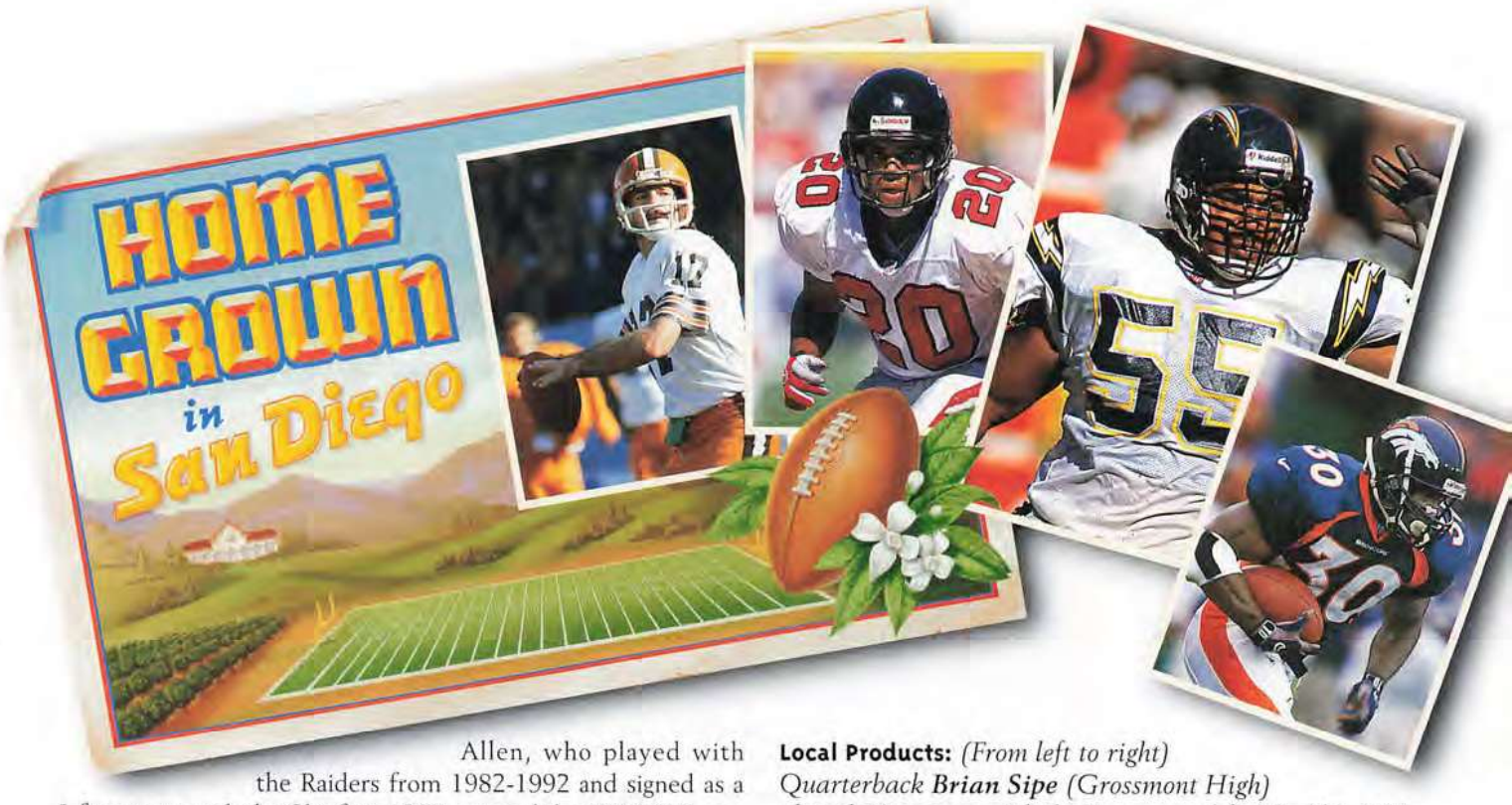
"I regard Marcus as a national treasure," Faison says. "The kids always have looked up to him and admired him for the things he has done on and off the football field."

"I'VE ALWAYS SAID HE WAS A MAN PLAYING AMONG BOYS. HE HAD THE PHYSICAL SIZE, THE MENTAL TOUGHNESS, AND SOMETHING I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON—A SPECIAL MAGNETISM THAT GOT THOSE AROUND HIM TO PLAY BETTER."

—Vic Player, former Lincoln High School head football coach, on Marcus Allen



COURTESY OF VIC PLAYER



PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT: GEORGE GOJKOVICH, THEARON HENDERSON, GREG TROTT, E.B. GRAPHICS

Allen, who played with the Raiders from 1982-1992 and signed as a free agent with the Chiefs in 1993, entered the 1997 NFL season as the league's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns. During this past season, he surpassed 12,000 rushing yards, and now is in sixth position on the NFL's all-time list.

And as Allen's 16-year NFL career winds down, Terrell Davis has picked up the torch.

"Since Marcus graduated from Lincoln, the school has had about two kids per year receive college scholarships," says Player, who guided Lincoln to six CIF-San Diego Section title-game appearances and four championships in 17 years as head coach. "In the ten years following Marcus's departure, all the kids wanted to be like him. Today most of the kids talk about following in Terrell's footsteps."

In just three NFL seasons, Davis has become one of the league's premier running backs. In 1997, he posted his third successive 1,000-yard rushing season.

In 1996, Davis set single-season records for the Broncos, including rushing yards (1,538), total yards (1,848), and touchdowns (15). *Sports Illustrated* named him the NFL's most valuable player.

But Davis was not a local legend in high school. He played nose tackle and fullback on a talent-laden Lincoln team that finished 11-3 and was runner-up to El Camino for the section championship in 1989.

Davis had enough raw talent to get a scholarship to Long Beach State, where he redshirted one year and started four games the next season. After two seasons, the football program folded.

He transferred to Georgia, where he led the team in rushing as a junior and again as a senior. The Broncos chose Davis in the sixth round of the 1995 NFL draft—after 20 running backs, including Salaam, already had been selected. Davis, a late bloomer, has become a full-fledged NFL star.

"I think both Marcus and Terrell were destined for greatness," Player says. "Both of them continually made positive choices in all aspects of their lives.

Local Products: *(From left to right) Quarterback* ***Brian Sipe*** *(Grossmont High) played 10 seasons with the Browns and finished his NFL career as the club's all-time passing leader in attempts, completions, yards, and touchdowns. The Falcons made cornerback* ***Michael Booker*** *(El Camino) one of three San Diego products selected in the first round of the 1997 NFL draft. Fiery Chargers linebacker* ***Junior Seau*** *(Oceanside) is a dominating defender and has been named to seven successive Pro Bowls. Few people knew much about Broncos running back* ***Terrell Davis*** *(Lincoln) when he entered the NFL in 1995, but they do now. Considered one of the league's best running backs, he posted his third consecutive 1,000-yard rushing season in 1997.*

"Marcus could have gotten wrapped up in all the trappings that come with being a superstar, but he always chose to work hard and never lose sight of what it takes to be one of the greatest players in football history. Terrell could have given up football completely because he initially wasn't the star of the team, but he never quit working hard, and look where that has gotten him."

Now Davis's impact on current San Diego youngsters is similar to that of Allen's.

"I think local kids believe that now more than ever they can make it in athletics," Davis says. "When I go home, I see a lot of kids wearing my jersey and playing football.

"There have been so many recent players from San Diego to make it big. A lot of people realize now that there are some great athletes in San Diego. The city definitely is not being overlooked anymore."

That thought makes Marcus Allen smile.

"It's great to see more San Diego kids in the NFL," he says. "I take a tremendous amount of pride in their success.

"I used to hear the guys from Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, and Miami brag about the guys from their cities. Now I get to talk up the guys from San Diego. I have a lot of pride in my hometown."

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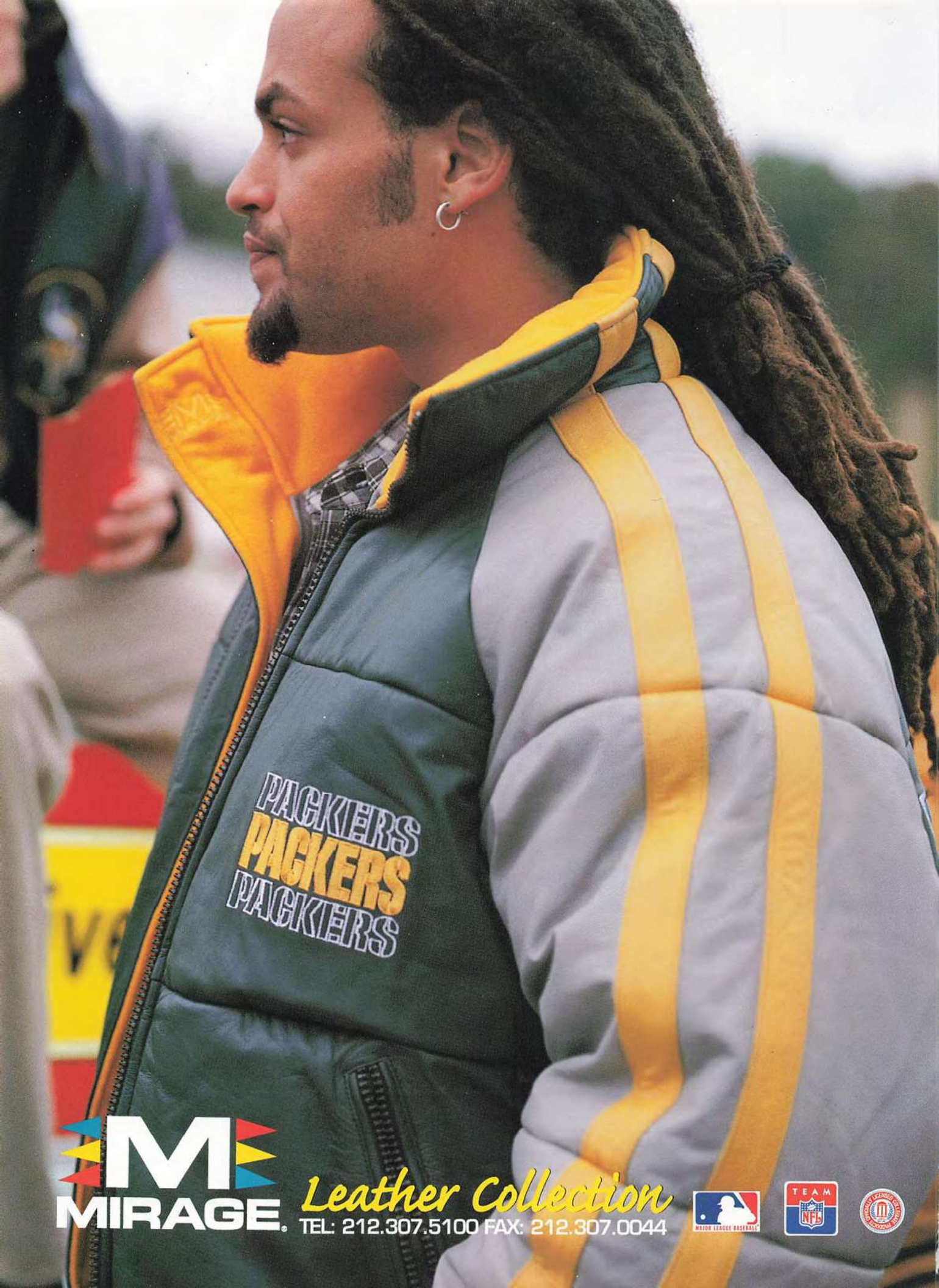

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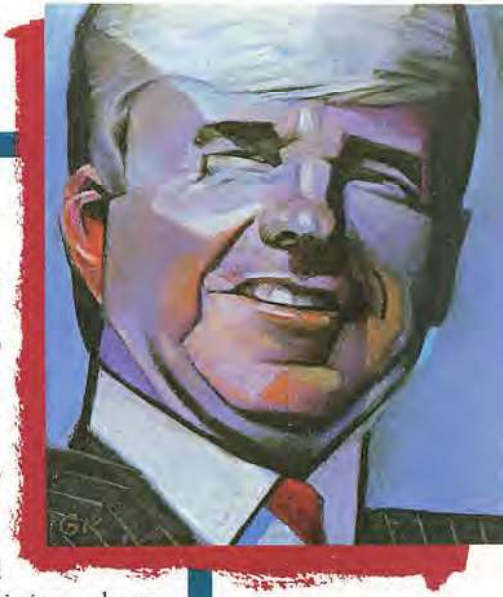

BLACK AND WHITE

Winning teams have no time for racial divisions

By Jack Kemp

Growing up in Los Angeles in the 1940s and 1950s, my dream was to be a professional football quarterback. I went to my first pro football game at 12, when the Los Angeles Rams were playing in the Coliseum. As I watched, I dreamed of one day playing on the same field as my boyhood heroes, quarterbacks Bob Waterfield and Norm Van Brocklin and halfback Kenny Washington, who became the first African-American to play in the NFL in 13 years.

I was drafted out of Occidental College in 1957 by the Detroit Lions. I was a seventeenth-round pick, but it didn't matter. I was thrilled just to have a chance to play in the NFL for a team coached by the legendary Buddy Parker and quarterbacked by the remarkable Bobby Layne. Not only had I begun to fulfill a lifelong vision, but I also had the satisfaction of knowing that years of hard work, training, and practice had paid off.

Playing football taught me that nothing great happens without discipline, inspiration, and perspiration. My inspiration came one memorable day as a freshman at Occidental. Our freshman football coach, Payton Jordan, called me into his office and told me—confidentially—that if I worked hard and never gave up, I could reach the NFL someday. I walked out of his office on cloud nine and practiced harder than ever.

Years later, I learned that Coach Jordan had the same "confidential" conversation with many of his other players, including Ron Botchan and Jim Mora. Nevertheless, he inspired me and many others to live up to our God-given potential and never to give up on our dreams.

Playing professional football was my shot. Through the game, I learned that the opportunity always is there for anyone who is willing to put in the effort.

But during the course of my 13-year career in pro football, from 1957 to 1969, I could not avoid the harsh reality that in the 1950s and 1960s, the American Dream was only a distant hope for many of my African-American teammates and friends. Pro football had given many of us a magnificent opportunity, but other segments of America's society still were trapped in ignorant and hateful habits of thought and behavior that precluded all too many from being seen and treated as equals.

In 1961, when I was quarterback and captain of the San Diego Chargers, we were scheduled to play the Oilers in Houston for the AFL championship. Traditionally, the night before the game, coach Sid Gillman took the entire team to a movie. On this night, though, shortly after we sat down in our seats, I looked around and realized that some of my teammates were missing—players such as Paul Lowe, Ernie Ladd, and Charlie McNeil. I was told that they had been sent to the "blacks-only" balcony. When I told Coach Gillman, he immediately rounded up the players and we left the theater as a team, in a silent, but powerful, demonstration of our team's belief in racial equality.

Later, after I joined the Buffalo Bills, I had the honor of quarterbacking several AFL All-Star Games with players such as Ernie Warlick of the Bills, Abner Haynes of the Kansas City Chiefs, Art Powell of the Raiders, and Cookie Gilchrist of the Bills. At the 1965 AFL All-Star Game in New Orleans in January, 1965, my black teammates were unable to get taxis, decent accommodations, or even basic service at restaurants and nightspots because of the color of their skin.

In this case, it was the popularity of pro football that gave us the leverage needed to combat such discrimination incidents. In our team meeting we agreed to boycott the game because of the racial climate in the city. As a result the game was moved to Houston, which by that time had made progress toward equal treatment in public accommodations.

I don't bring this up to rekindle hard feelings, but to build on the lessons from sports and to recognize the legacy of the New South. These were men with whom I considered myself privileged to play the game, men who excelled at football and life. Yet they were held back because of their race. Their treatment flew in the face of our nation's ideals.

I am glad that, at least on the field, we did not struggle with the racial disparities that characterized American society during that decade. On the field, the differences of race, creed, and class were dissolved in the common struggle for the end zone.

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

Artificial divisions had no place in a huddle.

The game of football, indeed all team sports, necessitates this unity. A team has to move in concert, each person understanding and assisting the roles of his teammates. If the team does not do this, it goes down in defeat. You win or lose as one team, one family, one unit. When a successful team walks onto the field, the issues of race and religion should be inconsequential. There is no room for racism, anti-Semitism, or prejudice.

I believe that is why team sports in general, and the NFL in particular, have been a vanguard of racial equality. Those who love to play the game well, and who respect the concept of the team, don't have room for such distractions.

The game of football, indeed all team sports, necessitates this unity. A team has to move in concert...

That was the case in 1947 in professional baseball with Pee Wee Reese, the Brooklyn Dodgers shortstop. When the Dodgers received word from Branch Rickey that they would be adding a new infielder named Jackie Robinson, many players circulated a petition stating they would not take the field with a black man. When Reese, the team captain, refused to sign the petition, he effectively put an end to the controversy.

But the influence of sports and athletic competition goes far beyond the sphere of the players to the millions of fans who love the game and admire the players.

In 1947, the fans regularly heckled, spat upon, and threw things at Jackie Robinson until finally, during a game in Cincinnati, Pee Wee walked over to his teammate, the first black player in the major leagues, and put his arm around him. Reese and Robinson stared down the crowd until the stadium was silent, then the game resumed. The power of one man doing the right thing at the right time is one of the greatest influences in our society.

Individually, we are not all captains of our own teams. But we are captains of our own souls. Just as collectively, we are the captain of the soul of our nation—and the soul of America is at stake in how we handle racial justice and reconciliation on the eve of a new century.

For me, the true model of leadership is the Good Shepherd, who left "the 99" to save one stray lamb. Ultimately, that has been the most valuable lesson of all—that our precious experiment in human justice and freedom will be judged on how we treat those who have been left out. America cannot lead the world to democracy, social justice, and free enterprise if we don't make those ideals work for all of our people here at home. I learned this firsthand during my 13 seasons of professional football, and I'm proud that my sons, Jeff and Jimmy, also carried those lessons into their professional football careers.

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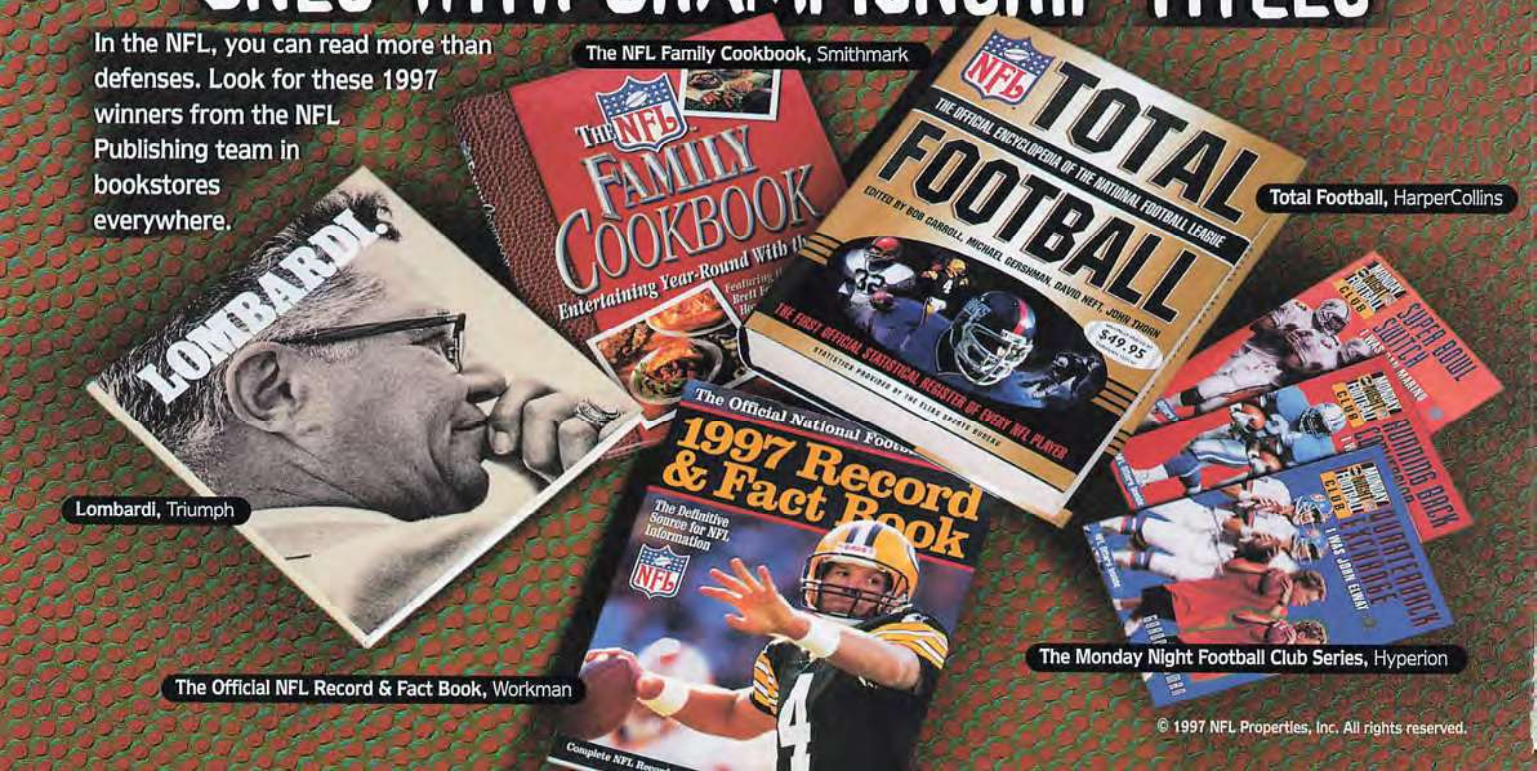
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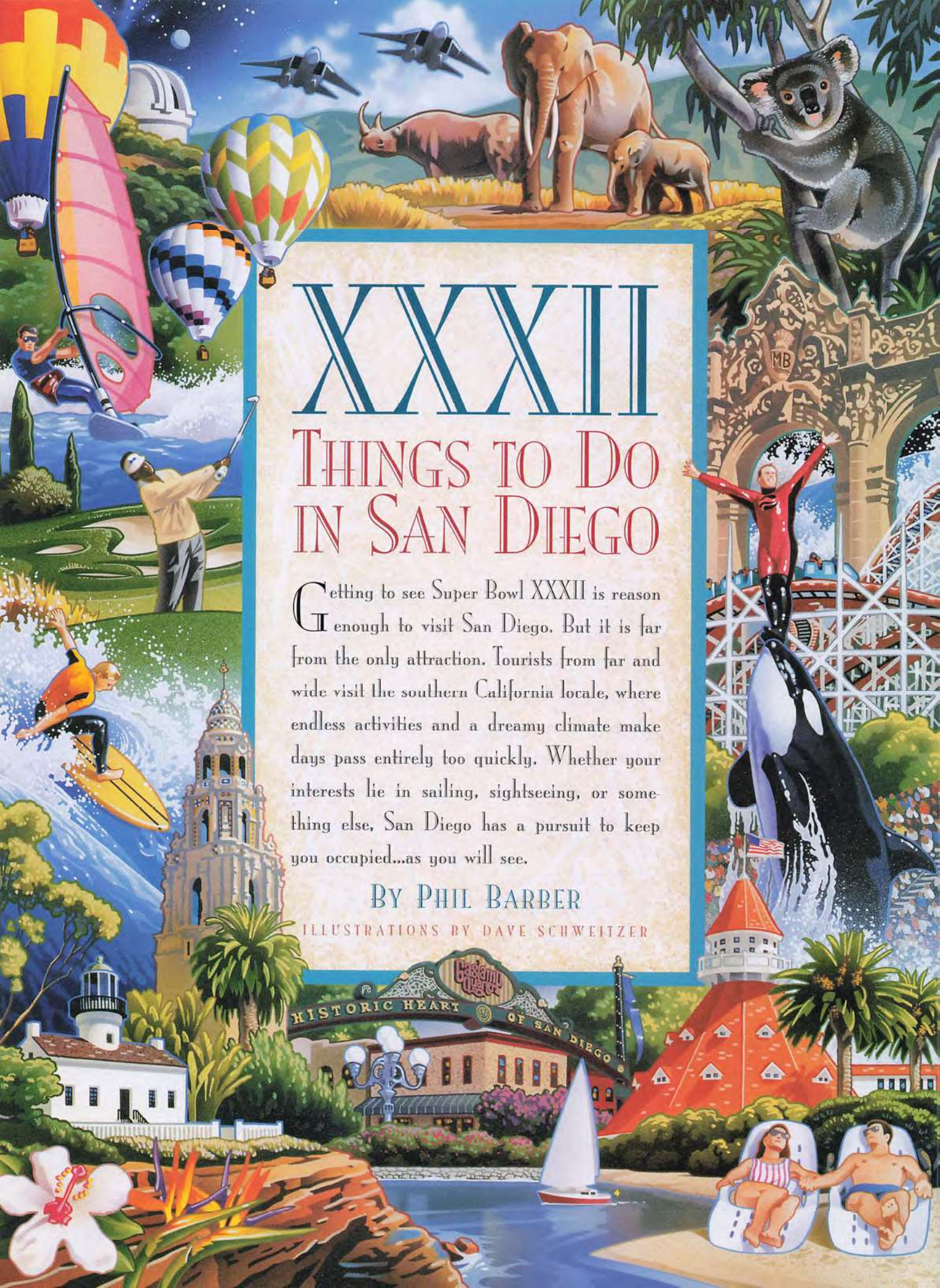


XXXII Things to Do in San Diego

Getting to see Super Bowl XXXII is reason enough to visit San Diego. But it is far from the only attraction. Tourists from far and wide visit the southern California locale, where endless activities and a dreamy climate make days pass entirely too quickly. Whether your interests lie in sailing, sightseeing, or something else, San Diego has a pursuit to keep you occupied...as you will see.

By Phil Barber

Illustrations by Dave Schweitzer

About 1,000 years before European seamen glimpsed the largest natural harbor on the California coast, the Kumeyaay tribe came from the east. The Kumeyaay were a nomadic people who had roamed the dry Southwest for centuries. But when they reached the mesas and canyons of what now is called San Diego, they ceased their wandering and settled down.

Hey, we know the feeling.

Waves of transplants from every direction have been joined by tourists (14 million overnight guests in 1996) in a mass exodus to San Diego. Most come for the same reasons: the weather, the scenery, the cultural diversity, the active lifestyle, the guacamole.

San Diego's weather is about as close as you can get to perfection this side of Biosphere II. January is the city's wettest month, but even then you can expect a 72-percent chance of sunshine and a high temperature reading of 65 (with a low of 48). San Diego's palm-lined streets, manicured lawns, and dripping bougainvillea can make you forget that this was once a region of dry scrub hills.

Today there is much for a visitor to do in and around San Diego. There are animals to view, bicycles to ride, beaches to lounge on, and even a foreign country to visit. All you need is a light jacket, a car (this is the sixth-largest city in America, with only nominal public transportation), and an itinerary.

As for the latter, here are XXXII ideas—in no particular order—to get you started.

1 WATCH FOR SPOUTS

A late-January visit puts you in the thick of whale-watching season, as the gray whales make their annual migration from the Bering Sea to calve in the warm waters off Baja California. You sometimes can catch a glimpse of the large creatures' exhalations from the heights of Point Loma or Torrey Pines State Reserve, but if you want a close look, you will have to sign up for a boat expedition. Check the yellow pages.

Extra Point: *As many as 200 gray whales pass the San Diego coast daily between mid-December and mid-March.*

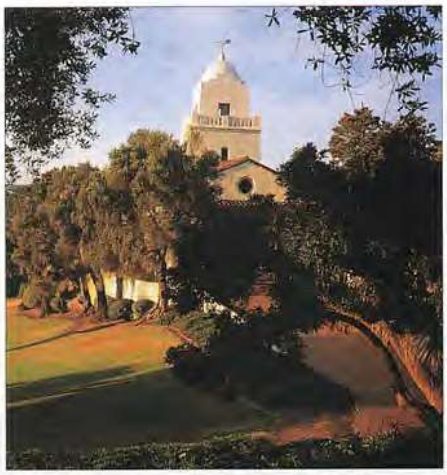
2 TUCK INTO THE CURL

Tucked away in Oceanside (about 35 miles north of downtown on Interstate 5) is the California Surf Museum, a modest but fascinating shrine to that so southern California pastime. Among the approximately 50 boards, some of which date back to the turn of the century, you'll find the first-known surfing trophy (the Tom Blake Trophy, presented at San Onofre in 1928) and the first camera constructed with a waterproof housing.

Extra Point: *The other reason San Diegans love Oceanside is that it produced heat-seeking linebacker Junior Seau.*

3 UNDERTAKE A MISSION

In 1769, Spanish priest Junipero Serra set off from present-day Mexico to build a string of missions for God and country. The first of those—in effect, California's first church—was Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá. The structures you see today do not date back to Serra's time, but were reproduced in the early 1930s to correspond to the original dimensions. Mission San Diego is short on glitz, but the museum, archaeological ruins, and gardens provide a glimpse of what life was like for the Spanish proselytizers and their conscripted Native American laborers.



JOEL ZWINK

History Lesson: *A visit to Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá provides a glimpse of life two centuries ago.*

Extra Point: *You can see two other versions nearby—Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, just east of Oceanside, and the world-famous Mission San Juan Capistrano, located approximately 50 miles north of downtown San Diego.*

4 BOND WITH THE ANIMALS

They say it's all happening at the San Diego Zoo. Who do? The 3 million annual visitors who make this the city's top tourist attraction. This is your chance to impress an impala, wave at a wildebeest,

SAN DIEGO ZOO

Animal Attraction: *The world famous San Diego Zoo is home to about 4,000 animals—and attracts about 3 million visitors each year.*

JOEL ZWINK

Seaside Elegance: *The Hotel del Coronado, one of the largest wood structures in the world, has welcomed guests, famous and otherwise, since it opened in 1888.*

or flip for a pancake tortoise. In all, the 100-acre zoo holds about 4,000 animals of 800 species. The 40-minute guided bus tour is a good place to start making sense of this publicly owned menagerie. Then you can venture out on your own. Two popular recent arrivals are Bai Yun and Shi Shi, giant pandas from the People's Republic of China and the only such pair in the United States. Another must-see is the Polar Bear Plunge, where those famed northern carnivores cavort in a 12-foot-deep chilled pool and gaze hungrily at the neighboring Siberian reindeer, arctic foxes, and yellow-throated martens.

Extra Point: *In the Gorilla Tropics area, a system of 144 concealed stereo speakers projects the grunts, howls, and whistles of equatorial Africa.*

5 FEEL THE TOUCH OF ELEGANCE

Getting to the Hotel del Coronado—you can call it the Del—is half the fun. The graceful, sweeping span of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge connects the greater city with this island that isn't really an island. (It's a long thumb attached at the south.)

Since it opened in 1888, the rambling, seaside resort hotel has welcomed movie stars, kings and queens, and 14 U.S. Presidents from Benjamin Harrison to Bill Clinton. Legend has it that Coronado housewife Wallis Simpson met her future husband, the Prince of Wales, in the ballroom in 1935, and that Wizard of Oz creator Frank Baum patterned his Emerald City after the Del's unique turrets. It's one of the world's largest wooden structures.

Extra Point: *Kate Morgan checked into the Del in 1892, and some say she never left. Her ghost supposedly haunts room 3312.*

6 GET A LITTLE DUSTY

For a taste of the chaparral and coastal sage brush that blankets much of southern California, head to Mission Trails Regional Park, about 10 miles northeast of downtown. Within the 5,800-acre confines of Mission Trails are about 40 miles of mostly unpaved routes for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, plus exhibits on the Kumeyaay tribe. Enjoy a 360-degree view from the top of Cowles Mountain, the highest point (1,591 feet) within San Diego city limits.

Extra Point: *One trail leads to Old Mission Dam, an ambitious project designed in the early 1800s to carry water to Mission San Diego, nearly six miles away.*

7 STAY UP LATE

The area known as the Gaslamp Quarter wasn't always the epicenter of San Diego's nightlife. For years it was called the Stingaree, and it was a bawdy and dangerous neighborhood where a sailor on leave could find just about anything he was looking for. It's now a 16-block National Historic District. The area along Fourth and Fifth Avenues between Market Street and Broadway is a bustling row of music clubs, restaurants, hip-hop clothing shops, and espresso bars.

Extra Point: *Sorry, folks, those nostalgic iron gaslights really are powered by electricity.*

8 HUG A TREE

Quail Botanical Gardens, in the northern beach town of Encinitas, is a 30-acre preserve featuring plants from Australia, the Himalayas, and Africa, plus the largest bamboo collection in America. The most interesting aspect of the gardens may be the display of native southern California species: laurel sumac, Mohave yucca, Del Mar manzanita, and

JOEL ZWINK

After Dark: *The Gaslamp Quarter is home to clubs, restaurants, and shops.*

about 200 of their cohorts. Practical demonstrations include landscaping for fire safety and composting miniseminars.

Extra Point: *The California Quail that gave this place its name can still be seen throughout the Gardens near dawn and dusk.*

9 DO THE DIPPER

Mission Beach is one of San Diego's most popular summer hangouts, a magnet for surfers, Rollerbladers, and exhibitionists of all types. The centerpiece is Belmont Park. The park opened in 1925 as a West Coast answer to Coney Island, but fell into disrepair and was closed in 1976. It returned in 1990 as a complex of snack shops, arcades, and amusement rides. Don't miss The Plunge, a roomy swimming pool inlaid with Mexican tiles and housed in a soaring glass palace. Even better, take a ride on the Giant Dipper. This roller coaster has new cars and tracks, but the course is true to its rough-and-tumble 1925 design.

Extra Point: *The Plunge offers occasional "dive-in movies" such as* Jaws *or* The Abyss.

10 GO SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Mexico never has been closer. The world's busiest border crossing is 18 miles away, but the trolley that connects Tijuana with San Diego has ushered in a new era of convenience for day-trippers. Most go for the shopping: leather goods, silver jewelry, tequila, vanilla, wicker baskets, and cotton pullovers. Avenida Revolución is considered ground zero for the bargains.

Of course, you don't have to shop. Tijuana has jai alai at the magnificent Palacio Fronton, greyhound racing at Hipodromo de Agua Caliente, and bullfighting at two separate venues.

Extra Point: *Most rental-car companies do not allow their cars to enter Mexico, so the trolley is the best bet for tourists. There is no need to change dollars into pesos since U.S. currency is accepted everywhere.*

JOEL ZWINK

Waterworld: *The San Diego area is famous for its water sports, and there is no better place to get wet than at Mission Bay, a 4,600-acre aquatic park.*

11 DRIVE TO CLEVELAND

The Cleveland National Forest forms an imposing backdrop to the San Diego metropolitan area. A popular destination is the Palomar Observatory, which sits atop 6,126-foot Palomar Mountain about 40 miles northeast of the city. The pride of the observatory is the famous Hale Telescope; with a 200-inch aperture, it's the second-largest reflector in the world. The public can't look through it, but there are plenty of astronomical exhibits to enjoy. The western flank of the mountain is the location of a woodsy state park

Extra Point: *Despite its lofty modern standing,* Palomar *means "place of the pigeons" in Spanish.*

12 DROP AND GIVE US TWENTY

The San Diego landscape is dominated by one of the world's largest military complexes. One of the less-visible posts (near San Diego's Lindbergh Field) is the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, which has been alternately tormenting and graduating young patriots for more than 75 years. (It is the oldest operating Marine Corps installation on the West Coast.) The Marine Corps Recruit Depot Command Museum is dedicated to preserving the history and traditions of the depot and the Corps.

Extra Point: *Elroy (Crazylegs) Hirsch and Claude (Buddy) Young were just two of the future NFL stars who played for San Diego-area military teams near the end of World War II.*

13 RIDE THE WAVES

At Mission Bay, you either get in gear or you get run over. This snaking, curving, 4,600-acre aquatic park (the views from Interstate 5 give no hint of its immensity) is San Diego's monument to the active life. Waverunners, ski boats, motor boats, catamarans, kayaks, aqua cycles, sailboards, and sailboats skim along the water. Rollerbladers, bicyclists, and runners circle the perimeter. Detailed maps of the area, which is accessible from I-8 just west of the intersection with I-5, are available at the Visitors' Information Center on East Mission Bay Drive. Equipment for virtually any manner of water sport is available for rent at a number of shops.

Extra Point: *Portuguese explorer Juan Cabrillo called this former swamp bahia falsa—false bay—when he spotted it in 1542.*

SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK (2)

Wild Thing(s): *Animals are allowed to roam free in their natural habitats at the Wild Animal Park.*

14 WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

About 40 years ago, the San Diego Zoological Association decided that certain animals, specifically those evolved on the open plains, needed room to roam if they were to propagate. That seed of an idea became the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Just east of Escondido, the park is an unconventional zoo—1,800 largely undeveloped acres supporting 122 species of mammals and 243 species of birds.

The Wild Animal Park has plenty of walking trails that take you within growling distance of enclosed exhibits like Sumatran tigers and ring-tailed lemurs. But the most popular mode of transportation is the Wgasa Bush Line monorail, an elevated light rail system that winds through vast, open re-creations of habitats such as East Africa or the Mongolian Steppe.

Extra Point: *Nearly half the California condors alive today were hatched at the San Diego Wild Animal Park.*

15 SEE ONE OF NATURE'S RARITIES

California's rarest pine tree, the twisted *Pinus torreyana*, lives in only two areas: (1) on Santa Rosa Island off the coast of Santa Barbara, and (2) between La Jolla and Del Mar, in 1,700-acre Torrey Pines State Reserve. Just north of the reserve is Los Penasquitos Marsh, one of the last saltwater estuaries on the southern California coast. And far below the pines, at the base of glorious sandstone cliffs, is the fetching Torrey Pines State Beach. The area is ideal for hiking and nature-ogling.

Extra Point: *The adobe lodge now used as park headquarters was built in 1922, a gift from Ellen Browning Scripps.*

16 TAKE A TRIP TO YESTERYEAR

Overlooking Old Town, just off Juan Street, sits a monument to preservation. It is Heritage Park, a colorful collection of gorgeously remodeled Victorian buildings, all of them saved from destruction and moved to this grassy location by the Save Our Heritage Organization. Most of the gaudily painted homes were built in the late 1880s. In recent years, they have been converted into retail shops and business offices, and one is a bed-and-breakfast inn.

Extra Point: *Perhaps the most outstanding structure is Temple Beth Israel, built in 1889 as San Diego's first synagogue.*

17 INVESTIGATE SOMETHING FISHY

The Scripps Institution of Oceanography, affiliated with UC-San Diego, was founded in 1903 and has maintained an aquarium and museum since 1916. The current incarnation, the Stephen Birch Aquarium Museum, opened in La Jolla in 1992 with a demonstration tide pool and 30 viewing tanks. Water of varying temperature mimics the cold Pacific Northwest, the temperate southern California coast, and tropical Mexico. The Pisces de résistance: a 55,000-gallon tank, complete with wave machine and natural sunlight, that serves as a window to a thriving kelp forest.

Extra Point: *Giant kelp is one of the fastest-growing plants in the world, sprouting as much as 10 inches per day.*

JOEL ZWINK

Heritage Park: *A colorful collection of remodeled Victorian buildings looks down on Old Town.*

18 CARRY THE TORCH

Outside of Chula Vista, on the formerly undeveloped banks of Lower Otay Reservoir, is the ARCO Olympic Training Center, the only warm-weather Olympic training site in the United States. Athletes in eight sports train here, eat here, and sleep here throughout the year. The center includes four grass soccer fields; a boathouse for rowers and kayakers/canoers; a 50-lane archery complex; a 12-lane running track and separate six-acre throwing area for field events; field hockey pitches; a .9-mile bicycle criterium course; and four hard-surfaced tennis courts. Guided tours make use of an elevated promenade.

Extra Point: *The Easton Aluminum, Inc., Archery Range is the largest in North America.*

19 SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES

It may be well-orchestrated, even slightly cheesy, but if you spend a day in Old Town you'll probably have to concede that you had a pretty good time. You can sample Mexican food and drink, and there is Mexican-style shopping aplenty. For those who care to dig a bit deeper, there also is a bit of history waiting to be unearthed—this is the original site of the first permanent Spanish settlement on the California coast.

The center of Old Town has been preserved as a state historic park, with nearly two dozen restored or reconstructed structures, most made of wood or adobe, that date back to the mid-1800s. The park staff offers free guided tours on weekends, or, if you are a do-it-yourself sort, maps are available for self-guided tours.

Extra Point: *If you stop in the Robinson-Rose Building, which also serves as the visitors' center, you can see a scale model of the town as it would have appeared in 1872.*

20 RIDE THE THERMALS

If the urge to ride a hot-air balloon strikes you in San Diego, head north a few miles to the beach community of Del Mar. There, several companies (try Skysurfer Balloon Co. or Panorama) will offer to take you up for a sunset drift. The whole experience takes about 3½ hours, including briefing, one hour in the air, and post-touchdown champagne toast. You will land in the countryside east of town, preferably not on a cactus.

Extra Point: *Unfortunately, the famed Del Mar Racetrack is closed during winter months.*

21 GO ANTIQUING

If it's old and in reasonably good shape, it probably will end up on Adams Avenue, which runs from University Heights to Kensington (parallel to El Cajon Boulevard). Adams is home to some 20 antique, vintage clothing, and vintage music stores. Your treasure could be as small as a postage stamp or as weighty as a grand piano.

Extra Point: *The largest single antiques complex in San Diego actually is the Unicorn Company Arts & Antiques Mall, in the Gaslamp Quarter.*

22 STRENGTHEN YOUR SEA LEGS

Boat lovers won't want to miss the Maritime Museum of San Diego, which includes three restored ocean-going vessels. The *Berkeley* is an 1898 ferryboat that spent 60 years shuttling passengers between San Francisco and Oakland. The *Medea* is a 1904 steam yacht the original owner of which used her for social occasions and hunting trips around the isles of western Scotland. And the *Star of India*, born as the *Euterpe* in 1863, is the oldest square-rigged ship still sailing.

Extra Point: *The* Star of India *got off to a rough start, suffering a collision and a mutiny during her maiden voyage.*

JOEL ZWINK

Treasure Hunt: *Lovers of antiques won't want to miss Adams Avenue.*

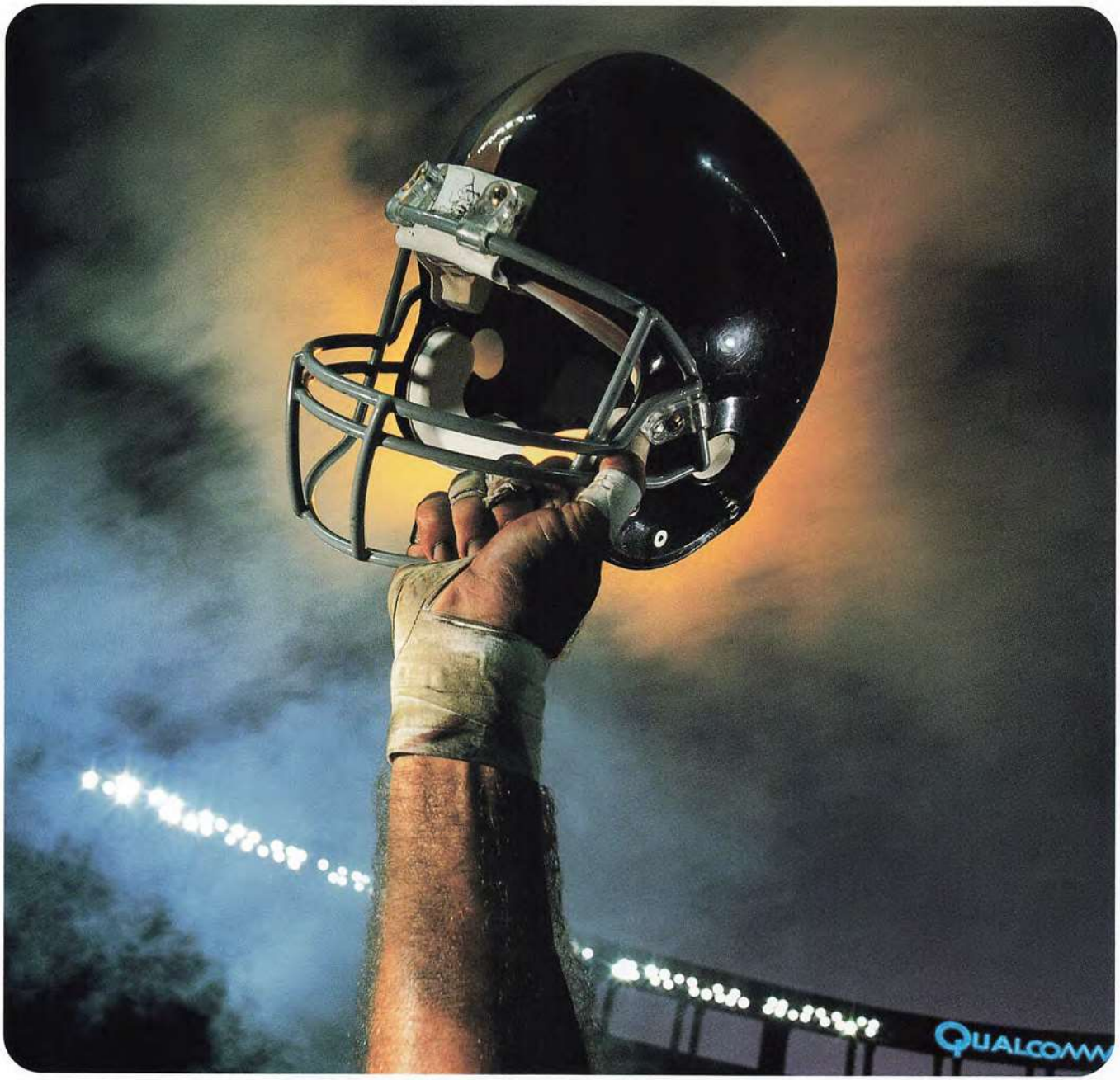
23 BECOME SHARK BAIT

Whether it's your dream or your worst nightmare, a company called San Diego Shark Diving will take you out to sea, lower you in a sturdy aluminum cage, and sprinkle the water around you with dead baitfish. The result: sharks! The average trip attracts 10 to 30 blue sharks and a mako or two. They may bite your brave escort (who is protected by a stainless-steel chainmail suit), but they can't get to you.

Extra Point: *Looking for a more conventional diving experience? Try La Jolla Cove and Point Loma's Sunset Cliffs.*

24 DISCOVER BALBOA

Balboa Park is a lot of things to a lot of people. The zoo is here. There are musical performances at the Starlight Bowl. And many have been content simply to stroll the main arteries and gaze at the stunning Spanish-Moorish-Mayan-otherworldly exteriors of Balboa's buildings, most of them built either for the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition



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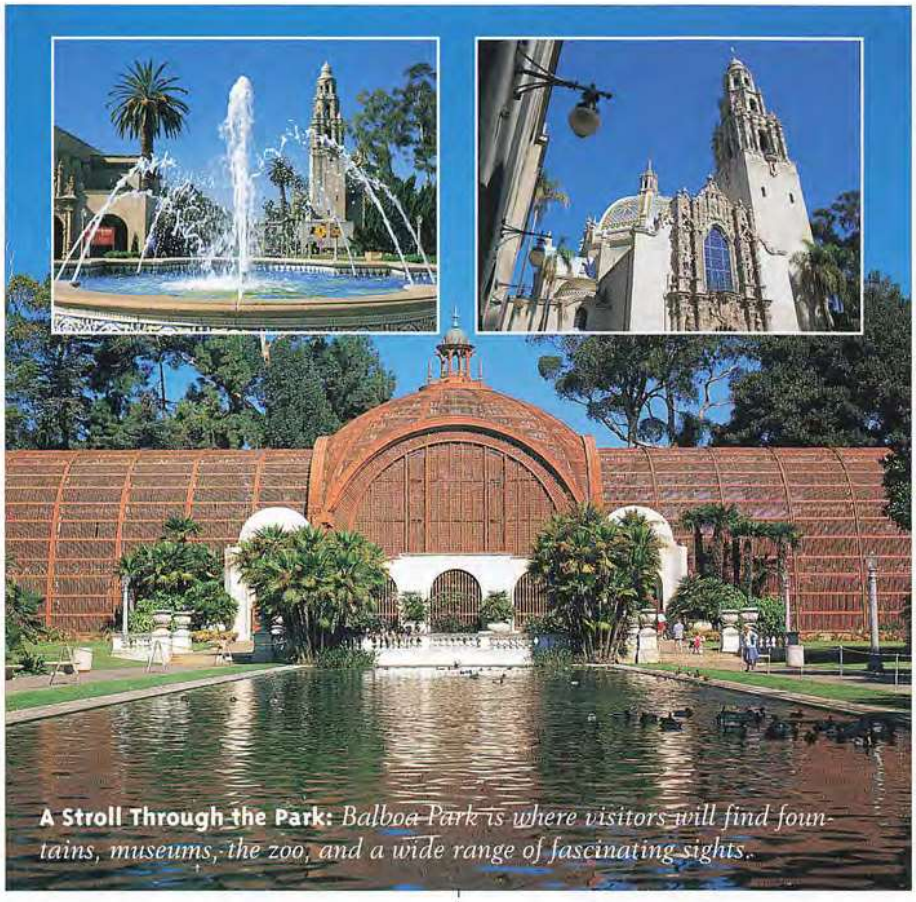

JOEL ZWINK (3)

A Stroll Through the Park: *Balboa Park is where visitors will find fountains, museums, the zoo, and a wide range of fascinating sights.*

or the 1935-36 California Exposition.

But the most impressive aspect of the 1,200-acre park is what's housed inside those structures: 14 museums that, as a whole, form the largest collection of artifacts in the country outside the Smithsonian Institution. The range of sights include a real Egyptian mummy at the Museum of Man, a 1981 Delorean at the Automotive Museum, and the Chargers' 1994 Lamar Hunt Trophy at the San Diego Sports Museum.

Extra Point: *The rather prurient California Exposition included a Midget Village populated by 76 small people, and someone named Queen Zorine of the nudist colony.*

25 GET TO THE POINT

The various eras of San Diego history overlap nicely at the tip of Point Loma. There is a monument to Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, captain of the Spanish expedition that charted the coast of California from 1542-43. There is the smartly refurbished Old Point Loma Lighthouse, which guided ships (as far as 40 miles out to sea) from its bluff-top perch from 1855-1891. And there are the many visible reminders—gun batteries and searchlight bunkers among them—of Point Loma's strategic location as a World War II defense post. But that's not all that is here. The surrounding area has hiking trails, splendid views of Coronado, and some fine tide pools just north of the new lighthouse.

Extra Point: *Cabrillo didn't survive his expedition. He died, probably of gangrene, six weeks after breaking his arm in a fall on San Miguel Island, where he was buried.*

26 STRETCH (AND STRETCH) YOUR LEGS

There's a lot to the San Diego area that you'll never see while whizzing down Interstate. A nonprofit group called Walkabout International will help you discover this other city. Volunteers lead walks of varying paces, distances, and times of day—100 or more each month, to a wide range of locales. It might be a rugged hike in Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve, a colorful stroll past the fishing boats of Shelter Island, or an appreciation of the murals of the old barrio. Call (619) 231-7463 for details.

Extra Point: *Did we mention that it's free?*

27 REEL IN A LUNKER

The abundant waters of the temperate-zone Pacific have made this area a mecca for sport-fishing fanatics. Any number of companies offer half-day, full-day, and multi-day boat excursions. In late January it's likely you'll be enticing bottom fish such as rockfish and sand bass.

Extra Point: *It is customary for the charter crew to clean, freeze, and package your edible trophies.*

28 DEMAND A CURTAIN CALL

San Diego isn't all sunshine and margaritas. There's culture here, too, including a thriving stage scene. The acclaimed La Jolla Playhouse is closed during the winter. But two other prominent venues—the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park and Lamb's Players Theatre in Coronado—begin their season in early February. The Old Globe kicks off February 7 with *Labor Day*, the newest from playwright A.R. Gurney. And Lamb's Players re-opens historic Spreckels Theatre on February 6, with *The Secret Garden*. The San Diego Opera, stages *The Barber of Seville* January 24/February 4.

Extra Point: *The Old Globe's sets, costumes, props, and footwear are created on-site by resident and guest designers.*

JOEL ZWINK

Whale of a Show: *Killer whales get the biggest billing at Sea World, but they are far from the only attractions at San Diego's world-famous marine park.*

29 TURN SEA-GREEN WITH ENVY

What's the only thing San Diegans covet more than Super Bowl tickets? A La Jolla zip code. This village (pronounced like boxer Oscar de la Hoya) is the posh side of town, filled with high-end clothing, furniture, and jewelry stores. Park your rental car between the Lexus and the BMW and walk over to glorious La Jolla Cove. Cormorants lounge on the rocks; pelicans glide by in perfect formation; scuba divers and snorkelers take advantage of the cove's designation as an underwater preserve. There's also a small beach and some interesting caves that are accessible when the tide is out.

Extra Point: *Author Raymond Chandler on his first visit to La Jolla: "My first impulse was to get out in the street at high noon and shout four-letter words."*

30 SEE THE HOUSE THAT SHAMU BUILT

The creatures at Sea World don't all sit by passively in the face of human hordes. This 150-acre marine park on Mission Bay is known for its animal talent, as presented in routines such as the Wings of the World Bird Show or Amazing Animals. Of course, those soaring killer whales still make the biggest splash (as you'll discover if you sit in the front row). Current exhibits include Dolphin Discovery, Wild Arctic, Forbidden Reef, and the hands-on California Tide Pool. There's a Shark Encounter and, if that's too toothy for you, a Penguin Encounter.

Extra Point: *An abandoned gray whale named J.J., brought to Sea World a year ago, has attracted an international following, with help from the underwater "J.J. Cam."*

31 GET READY TO POLKA!

America's favorite South Dakota-born band leader opened a humble motel in the foothills north of Escondido in 1965, and it since has grown into the 132-unit Lawrence Welk Resort. Set among the shady oaks and the stucco-and-tile bungalows are the Welk Resort Theatre and the Lawrence Welk Museum. The 330-seat theatre presents twice-nightly musicals and variety shows, while the museum, as you might guess, houses a wun'erful, wun'erful collection of memorabilia.

Extra Point: *The original four-room motel is now the Executive Conference Center.*

32 REPLACE YOUR DIVOTS

With mild ocean breezes, nearly year-round sunshine, and a county full of rugged scenery, it isn't surprising that San Diego ranks high as a golf destination. The most famous facility, the two courses at La Costa Resort and Spa, is private, but can be played by guests staying at the resort.

But the many public courses are almost as interesting. Coronado Golf Course has wonderful views of Coronado Bridge and San Diego Bay from the back nine. Mt. Woodson Country Club, in the mountains near Ramona, has wooden cart bridges and massive boulders. And then there are the two 18-hole layouts at Torrey Pines Municipal Golf Course, home of the Buick Invitational and two of the best public courses in America. Morgan's Run sits in the colorful valley between Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe.

Extra Point: *It is not unusual to spot a famous face or two at La Costa Resort and Spa.*

JOEL ZWINK

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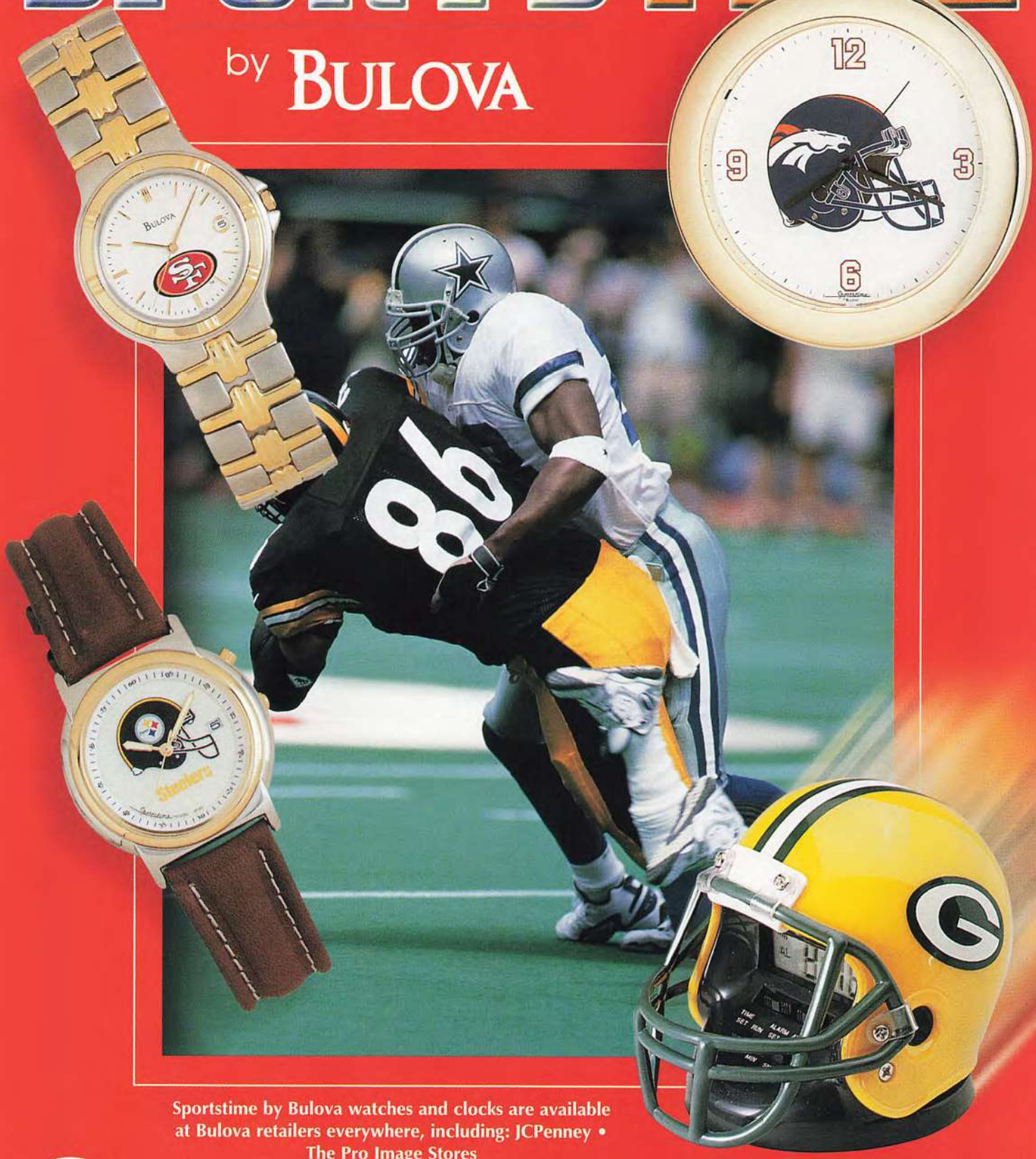

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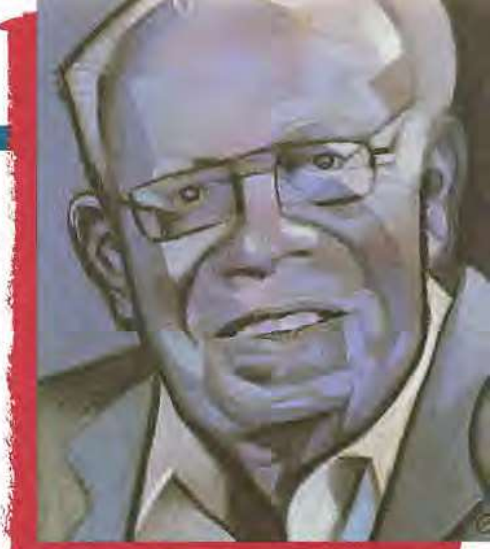

THE GOOD OLD DAZE

The Super Bowl has come a long way

By Harold Rosenthal

It says here that the first Super Bowl was the most important football game ever played. If that initial effort flopped because of box-office failure, mutual distrust between the AFL and NFL, or the inability of the bus drivers to find their way over to the Los Angeles Coliseum from downtown headquarters at 7th and Figueroa, January might as well be missing one Sunday.

There would be no Super Sunday (nor would there be such excuses as "I'm sorry, I'm flying out to the Super Bowl with the secretary-general," or "Better call nine-one-one. I can't do much about that water coming through the living-room ceiling until this half ends").

They played that epochal game (a) with one seat in every three unoccupied and (b) virtually under an alias. In the interval between the early June, 1966 merger announcement and the January 15, 1967 confrontation between the AFL and NFL, designers labored to fit the typographical legend "AFL-NFL World Championship Game" onto a standard-sized ticket without making it look and read like a disheartened double-acrostic.

Years later, when "Super Bowl" rolled off the tongue as if it had been that forever, Pete Rozelle was asked a late-evening question. How come it was AFL-NFL World Championship Game for those first few games, rather than the other way around? Didn't the NFL have 15 clubs to the AFL's 9? And didn't NFL teams play in bigger cities?

The no-longer boy commissioner, who had a tremendous reputation for diplomacy and conciliation, took a thoughtful sip and suggested, "Alphabetical?"

Game II still was the AFL-NFL World Championship Game but the Orange Bowl was packed for a Green Bay repeat. For III, "Super Bowl" was on the cover of the game program, but not on the labels, note pads, and checks. Clearly progress was being made, though. The television people unabashedly referred to it as "Super Bowl" on their own. So did the newspapermen, who occasionally have been know to set tastes and standards. And for Game IV, it was official, and Lamar Hunt's daughter firmly was established in football history.

The Kansas City owner has told the story many times, about his little girl proudly showing off her high-bouncing ball and saying, "Look Daddy, my Super Ball," and Daddy responding with, "Don't let that kid out of the room without signing an agreement."

Actually, "Super Ball" is a trademark, and it says so in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Also in the current edition is "Super Bowl" with a 1969 "first-usage." It's defined as "a contest or event that is the most important or prestigious of its kind." In other words, it's correct to describe something as the "Super Bowl of Tiddlywinks," though it won't bring the same fees for television commercials.

All Super Bowls are special, but the first had something for posterity: real, live rocket men who traveled through space via propulsion from rocket units strapped to their backs. They were on loan from an Army project experimenting with ultra-mobility for elite infantry units. They soared to the rim of the Coliseum, made a circuit of the stadium, and returned to the 50-yard line. No one in the crowd of 61,946 ever had seen anything like it.

The first five Super Bowls were played in three cities: Los Angeles, Miami, and New Orleans. The prime concerns were warm weather and outdoor seating capacity. The only major indoor venue available was the Astrodome in Houston, and it offered considerably fewer seats than the other choices. The Orange Bowl was the choice for numbers II and III, with New Orleans getting the nod for IV. The site was Tulane's capacious Tulane Stadium (home of the Sugar Bowl), and it was one of the coldest weeks in Creole memory.

Fountains are important in New Orleans, and the Kansas City club was quartered at a hotel that had fountains running out front, except they weren't doing that when the Chiefs arrived. The fountains unfroze just about game time, when a tornado watch had replaced the fourth day of rain.

Game IV marked my second year as the AFL public-relations man after a lifetime of newspapering. It was to prove a final victory before everything changed from "League" to "Conference." Kansas City whipped the Vikings thoroughly, causing Hank Stram, the Chiefs' coach, to interject gleefully into

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

an open mike from NFL Films his evaluation of Minnesota's inability to cope on defense. "Hey," Stram shouted, "they're running around like a Chinese fire drill." Harmless then, politically incorrect today.

Earlier, Game IV had all the possibilities of a real two-alarm fire, and not without casualties, either. The pregame show included plans for two balloon ascensions, in costume. One of the basketeers, the one made up to resemble a horned Viking, revved up his three-foot long stream of plumber's torch flame, and prepared to ascend. The elements had other ideas, however, and a gust blew him across the field, where he landed against a barrier of cyclone fence. It was all that stood between the runaway monster and disaster for those in the seats.

In the seats were some of the crinolined ladies slated to participate in the halftime pageant. One was so frightened she suffered a broken leg while scrambling to safety.

The other guy in a balloon, rigged out as a bonneted Indian chief, then jumped out of his still-grounded basket, waved to the ground crew, and caught a cab back to the hotel. Just like in World War II, stars departed, and the ground crew cleaned up.

At halftime the wraps came off the ladies and a mob of uniformed participants in a reenactment of the Battle of New Orleans. The ladies clambered into a period coach (actually it was a gussied up flat-bed truck) and off they went—for about five yards, until they sank hub-deep in the Louisiana gumbo. No one remembered it had rained for a week. They never made center stage.

So, the battle went on, with the Americans led by Old Hickory, still seen on the $20 bill, and opposed by some haughty Brit. Neither was aware the War of 1812 had been called off two weeks earlier (that's an historical fact; poor local delivery).

There was cannon fire, musket fire, and lots and lots of smoke.

The battle came to a sudden, unscheduled end. And onto the field rushed several real-life medics to minister to a fallen soldier who hadn't gotten up with the rest of the killed and wounded. This one just lay there holding his hand.

And well he should have. He had shot off one of his fingers.

Thirty years later, Don Weiss, former NFL executive director and senior surviving member of those early Super Bowl planners, was asked how one loses a finger while shooting blanks? "They wanted the sound real loud so they used extra-strength percussion caps," Weiss says.

Also that year, Pat O'Brien had an aching ear. O'Brien was a cherished Hollywood personality, welcomed in all sports crowds. His voice was unforgettable, whether giving Jimmy Cagney direction as the padre in the *The Fighting 69th*, or as Knute Rockne, taking the death-bed testimony of Notre Dame superstar George Gipp (played by Ronald Reagan).

Someone figured it would be a great idea to have Pat recite the "Star-Spangled Banner." And his musical accompaniment was Doc Severinsen, Johnny Carson's nationally recognized music man and horn player. Al Hirt, New Orleans's own trumpeter, had done some horn blowing in pregame ceremonies.

Pat and Doc shared a single microphone. It was a mistake. O'Brien faced it head-on; Severinsen had to come in from the side. His notes hit O'Brien's eardrum like a trip-hammer. And if O'Brien had pulled away he would have lost the mike. The sound system went out during the Anthem, and, when it came back on, Severinsen and O'Brien were not on the same page musically.

That afternoon Pat O'Brien joined the ranks of those who rate the "Star-Spangled Banner" a "little long." As O'Brien said later, "I couldn't hear out of my right ear until the week before the Kentucky Derby."

Pat and Doc shared a single microphone. It was a mistake. O'Brien faced it head-on; Severinsen had to come in from the side. His notes hit O'Brien's eardrum like a trip-hammer.

Three years later (my last in the league office), the NFL returned to Los Angeles. Don Shula's Miami Dolphins were 16-0 (including the regular season and two playoff games) and amazingly were two-point underdogs to Washington. That was the game in which a field-goal attempt by Garo Yepremian, with the Dolphins leading 14-0, was blocked. Yepremian followed with a Buster Keaton routine by trying to pick it up and throw it to absolutely no one in particular. Instead, the Redskins' Mike Bass picked it off, went half the field with it, and it was a 14-7 game with two minutes left. Fortunately for Garo, that's also the way it ended.

This technical development is recalled only to update later generations on the gifted Yepremian's multilingual, multifaceted personality. Originally from Cyprus he was skilled in four languages, Greek, Turkish, English, and something else. In his down time, he had a tie-manufacturing business in Miami.

Super Bowl parties were very big with Pete Rozelle. The Super Bowl VII bash aboard the *Queen Mary* in Long Beach, California, was one of the biggest—and in very tight quarters.

And things got bigger and better with each game.

The best line to come out of any NFL party in my experience came from a gorgeous woman accompanying one of the mature New York tabloid columnists. At the festivities prior to Super Bowl VII, he was with this impressive young lady and had nowhere to sit. I had been protecting the last two seats at my table like an embattled bull elephant. This included rejecting a qualified owner whose club had had a 6-8 record that season. I ushered the columnist and his friend into these Tiffany spots, where the lady was introduced as "Ms. Brown."

Seated, the small talk was followed by the wine sipping, followed by toying with the appetizers, and then leaping into the 12-ounce steaks. We were about halfway home on the entrée when Ms. Brown turned to another woman and asked,"What is the name of the organization sponsoring this event?"

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BY TOM BARNIDGE

He has been the voice of NBC Sports at the Olympic Games. He has reported the drama of the Ryder Cup. He has anchored the network's coverage of Wimbledon and introduced television viewers to the Breeders' Cup. Dick Enberg has described nearly every form of athletic competition that human beings will watch, from baseball to basketball to gymnastics to track and field to, yes, even figure skating.

But nothing gets his pulse racing faster or brings a deeper resonance to his golden voice than the prospect of calling a big football game. This year he's got the biggest one around—Super Bowl XXXII in San Diego.

This marks Enberg's ninth Super Bowl with NBC and the eighth time he will do the network play-by-play, a prospect that gives him pause. And not just because an audience estimated at 140 million will listen in. He is struck by the unlikely road he has traveled to this destination.

"When I was a junior at Central Michigan University, one of my fraternity brothers was the custodian at radio station WCEN," he says, 30 years later. "I got him to recommend me as his replacement when he graduated. But when I applied for the job, the general manager told me I had a good voice. He said he was looking for a weekend disc jockey, and he invited me to audition."

Enberg, a physical education major who planned to teach health science and coach, won the on-air assignment, for which he earned $1 an hour. Not long afterward, thanks to a staff departure, he was promoted to sports director, and a career was set in motion.

At Indiana University, where Enberg earned postgraduate degrees, he was hired to call Big Ten basketball and football games. After moving to California, where he taught briefly at Cal State-Northridge, he was lured away to do play-by-play for California Angels and Los Angeles Rams games.

The networks beckoned in 1975, and the rest is history. Enberg's distinctive voice now is a staple at NBC.

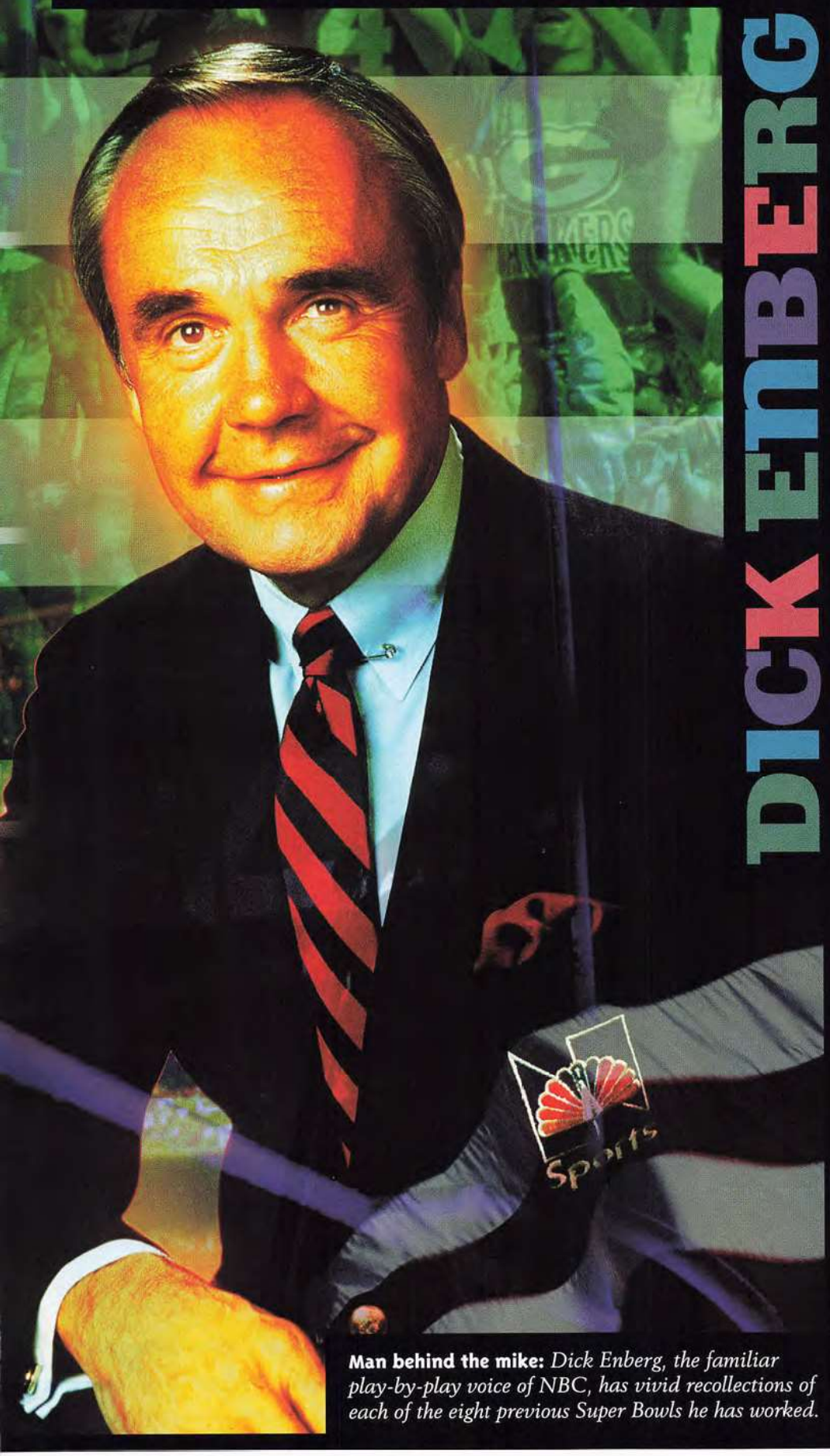
He marvels at his good fortune. "When I interviewed at that radio station back in Mount Pleasant, Michigan," he says, "all I was hoping for was that custodial job."

A native of Armada, Michigan, Enberg now resides in San Diego County with his wife Barbara and their three children, Nicole, Emily, and Ted. He has three children, Jennifer, Andrew, and Alex, by a previous marriage.

In the days leading up to Super Bowl XXXII, the veteran announcer talked about his career and his long-time relationship with pro football.

A CONVERSATION WITH NBC ANNOUNCER

DICK ENBERG



Man behind the mike: *Dick Enberg, the familiar play-by-play voice of NBC, has vivid recollections of each of the eight previous Super Bowls he has worked.*

At the mention of the Super Bowl, what thoughts come to mind?

I remember covering the first one, in 1967, for a local television station. At the time, the Super Bowl wasn't as important to Los Angeles fans as a Rams game. The Coliseum was two-thirds full, and everybody thought, "Well, this is a nice little postseason game, but is it really any more important than the Pro Bowl?" To see the game grow from that status to an enormous event is a remarkable part of my life. I don't think anyone, except maybe Pete Rozelle, realized what was ahead.

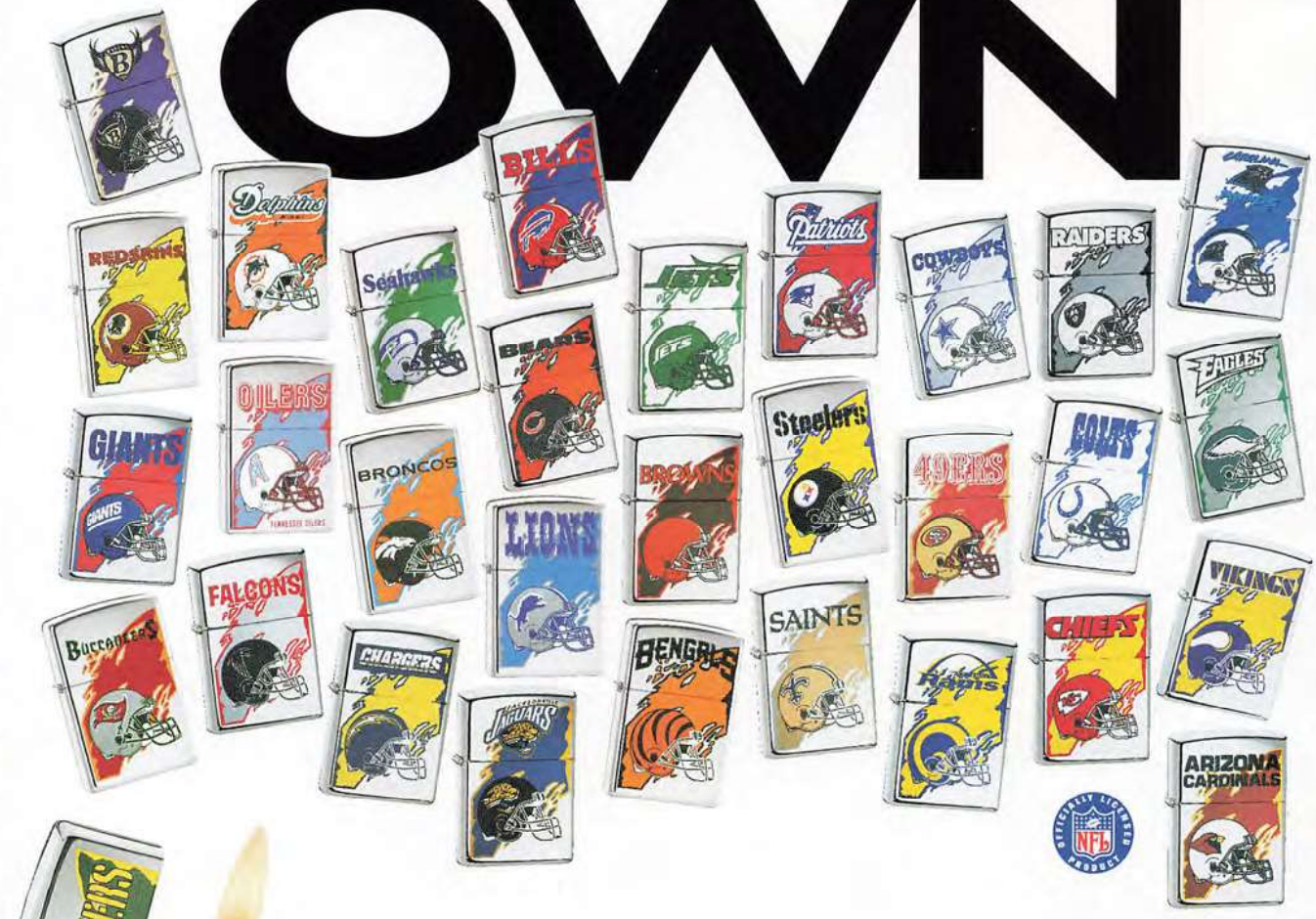
What are your capsule memories of the games you have worked?

Super Bowl XIII: *Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31*—I hosted the broadcast—that was a time when Curt Gowdy was the lead announcer—and I was stationed on top of the Orange Bowl in Miami at a time when they had had typhoon rains. There were all these wires on the roof, and I was standing ankle deep in water. Winds were whipping around at thirty-five miles an hour. I released my grip on part of our script during rehearsal, and it went flying out on Biscayne Bay. But as I looked down into the Orange Bowl from my location, it was like looking into a jewel box. I had an extraordinary vantage point, almost as if I were viewing the game from another planet.

Super Bowl XV: *Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10*—It was the first time I did play-by-play in a Super Bowl, and I remember the nervousness of being in that first chair and knowing that more than a hundred million people would

PHOTO BY AL LEVINE; DIGITAL IMAGING BY ERIC YANG

IN A LEAGUE ALL THEIR OWN



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"The fathers of the game must have had great foresight because they developed a game that is perfect for television."

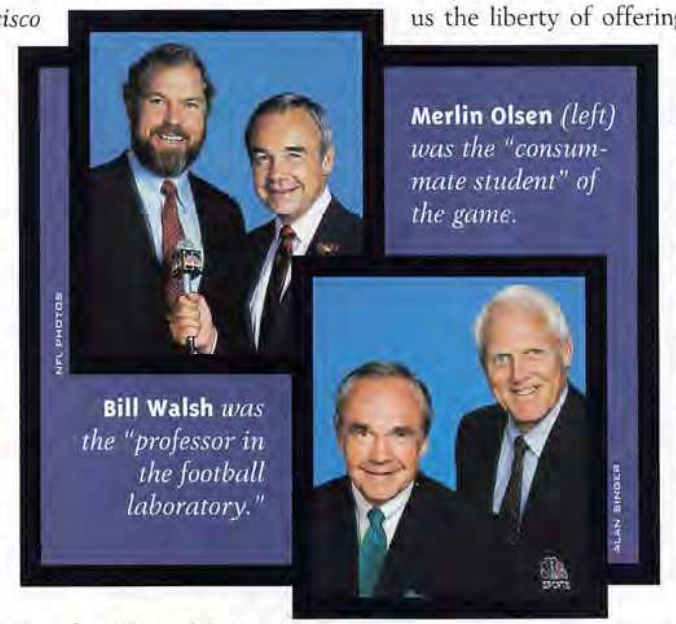
be watching. It took a while for me and my partner, Merlin Olsen, to gather our nerves. The Eagles never did.

Super Bowl XVII: *Washington 27, Miami 17*—For the entire first quarter, Merlin Olsen and I broadcast the game in total "echo." Somebody had crossed lines in the control room, and almost as soon as we would talk, the words would bounce back to us in our headphones. We finally realized we had to talk in three- or four-word sentences. But you know what? Nobody seemed to notice. It taught us that we really didn't need to say a lot to do a good broadcast.

Super Bowl XX: *Chicago 46, New England 10*—It was interesting that the Bears scored 46 points and their "46" defense was the talk of the league. It was a challenging game for a broadcaster because the outcome never was in doubt. I felt I did my best work in the second half, with the game decided, by bringing some humorous and anecdotal observations.

Super Bowl XXIII: *San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16*—When the Bengals got a kickoff return for a touchdown late in the third quarter, it looked as though they might pull a big upset. But Montana, in that great closing drive, gave us a microcosm of his career. He showed that he was able to rally a team at any given time, no matter the circumstances or how great the moment.

Super Bowl XXVII: *Dallas 52, Buffalo 17*—For a game that Dallas won so overwhelmingly, I thought it was one of the most entertaining of all the Super Bowls I've seen. There were a lot of memorable plays—who can forget Leon Lett running with a fumble and being stripped at the goal line?—and it was a game in which the Dallas offense worked at its very best. That Dallas team was probably as good as any I have ever seen.


NFL PHOTOS
Merlin Olsen (left) was the "consummate student" of the game.
Bill Walsh was the "professor in the football laboratory."
ALAN SINGER

Super Bowl XXVIII: *Dallas 30, Buffalo 13*—We had the same two teams as the year before, but Buffalo gave early hope of making it close before Emmitt Smith took over the game. It was exciting to call a game in which one great player exerted himself and determined the outcome. It was as if Emmitt said, "Give me the ball and I'll win you the Super Bowl."

Super Bowl XXX: *Dallas 27, Pittsburgh 17*—The onside kick gave Pittsburgh and long-suffering AFC fans real hope in the second half, but those two interceptions thrown to Larry Brown decided the game. We all left the stadium feeling that the Steelers may have been the better team that day.

Why hasn't an AFC team won the Super Bowl recently?

I think NFC teams went to the power lineups quicker. They built their strength in the lines, both offensive and defensive. And then Jimmy Johnson came along and complemented that with very fast linebackers. The AFC has been true to its early beginnings—it's a league that has a lot of flash and flair and big scoring plays. But when it has come down to stopping the opposition or grinding out a long series to score, the AFC hasn't been able to do that. And now it's become such a long string that the AFC teams actually think about it. That probably hurts a little, too.

How is a football game different from other assignments?

It's probably the best-constructed television sport. The fathers of the game must have had great foresight because they developed a game that is perfect for television—from the instant replay to the isolated camera. Most football fans will tell you the same thing: The thing they miss when they go to a game is not seeing the plays over again or the isolated shot of the key player. And the game's structure, with 30 seconds between plays, gives us the liberty of offering analysis, replays, graphics, and historical information. Nothing happens so fast that you can't absorb it and appreciate it. In a way, it's like being led into a museum full of great paintings and being told you can look at each one for a full amount of time and then go to the next without being rushed.

Who were your role models?

I grew up listening to some great radio voices, and I have borrowed from them. Bill Stearn was the radio football voice of the Midwest. And while we've learned that he wasn't always 100 percent accurate in his calls, he brought a dramatic flair and painted word pictures probably better than anybody else. Red Barber reported a game better than anybody who ever lived. I listened to Van Patrick, the voice of the Lions. He'd start from a very soft and mellow approach, and then when the play was initiated he would pick up the pace of his calls. As for television, Curt Gowdy was always someone I admired greatly.

What is the most difficult aspect of your job?

The preparation time. Most fans probably doesn't realize how much work goes into a broadcast. And I don't blame them. For every hour I'm on the air, if I haven't spent at least a full day in preparation, then I'm failing myself, if not my audience. And for the Super Bowl, it will be two weeks of preparation. There is so much information to consume and assimilate. I'd like to think that in every game I do, of the 53 players on the roster, no matter what player might emerge to do something special, I will know more about him than his height, weight, age, and the college he attended. My challenge is to be able to personalize every player.

"My mother said 'Oh My!' a lot, usually in dismay over some behavior of mine. It's a midwestern phrase."

What is the most enjoyable aspect of the job?

Oh, the fun is the game. We're no different than the players themselves. The preparation for the Super Bowl is in some ways agonizing because there are two weeks and there is so much to cover and there is so much media attention, even to us. There are many more distractions during the week than normal. You go through a whole season of doing games a certain way, you have a rhythm. Then, you come to the most important game, and you're in a situation where you have to do it differently. Then, you get to take the test. Before the game, all I know is that it will last about three hours and there will be 11 men on the field for each side, but I never know how the drama will unfold.

How do you view your relationship with your partners in the booth?

One of the challenges for me is how do I feature my partner or partners? How do I bring out the best in each one? My philosophy is that when I go to a sporting event, I'm going as a fan. I'm excited just to be in the arena, but look who's sitting next to me! I get to sit next to Merlin Olsen or Bob Trumpy or Bill Walsh or Phil Simms or Paul Maguire. And I get to ask questions and bring information out of them that's going to enhance my enjoyment of the game.

ALAN SINGER

Bob Trumpy *(left) brought a "refreshing honesty" to the broadcast.*

Paul Maguire *and* **Phil Simms** *are part of a "happy household" in a booth.*

How would you categorize broadcast partners?

Merlin Olsen: He was the consummate student. I've taken great pride in my preparations for each game, but Merlin was my match if not better. He came to the game with so much information. He is as bright an athlete as I've ever met. He had all this intelligence and passion for football wrapped up in a huge body. He was comforting to be next to.

Bill Walsh: Walsh had the "genius" tag, and in many ways he was the professor in the football laboratory, analyzing and dissecting the game. I had only one regret about Bill. He has such a tremendous sense of humor and warmth. We enjoyed that in the meetings before the game. As we got closer to game time, you could see Bill closing down and becoming a coach again. In his mind, he was back on the sidelines.

Bob Trumpy: Of all the partners, he was the most giving. He wanted so much for our partnership to work well. His laugh was contagious. Bob never has been able to hide his emotions, and in many ways his candid approach comes from that. What he feels is what he is, and that's what you are going to get. There was a refreshing honesty about Bob that probably rubbed some people the wrong way. But it was honest.

Phil Simms and Paul Maguire: It's very difficult to make any three-man team work in the broadcast booth. I have compared it to a happy household: It doesn't matter who the third person in a conversation is, it's only a matter of time before that third person is interrupted. But I think we've become a good team. Paul Maguire is the blue-collar, have-a-can-of-beer guy who is going to tell you the way he sees it, right from the seat of his pants. Phil is the cerebral quarterback who studies films and finds the subtleties that can be so key to the outcome of a game.

Of all the games you've worked, does one stand out?

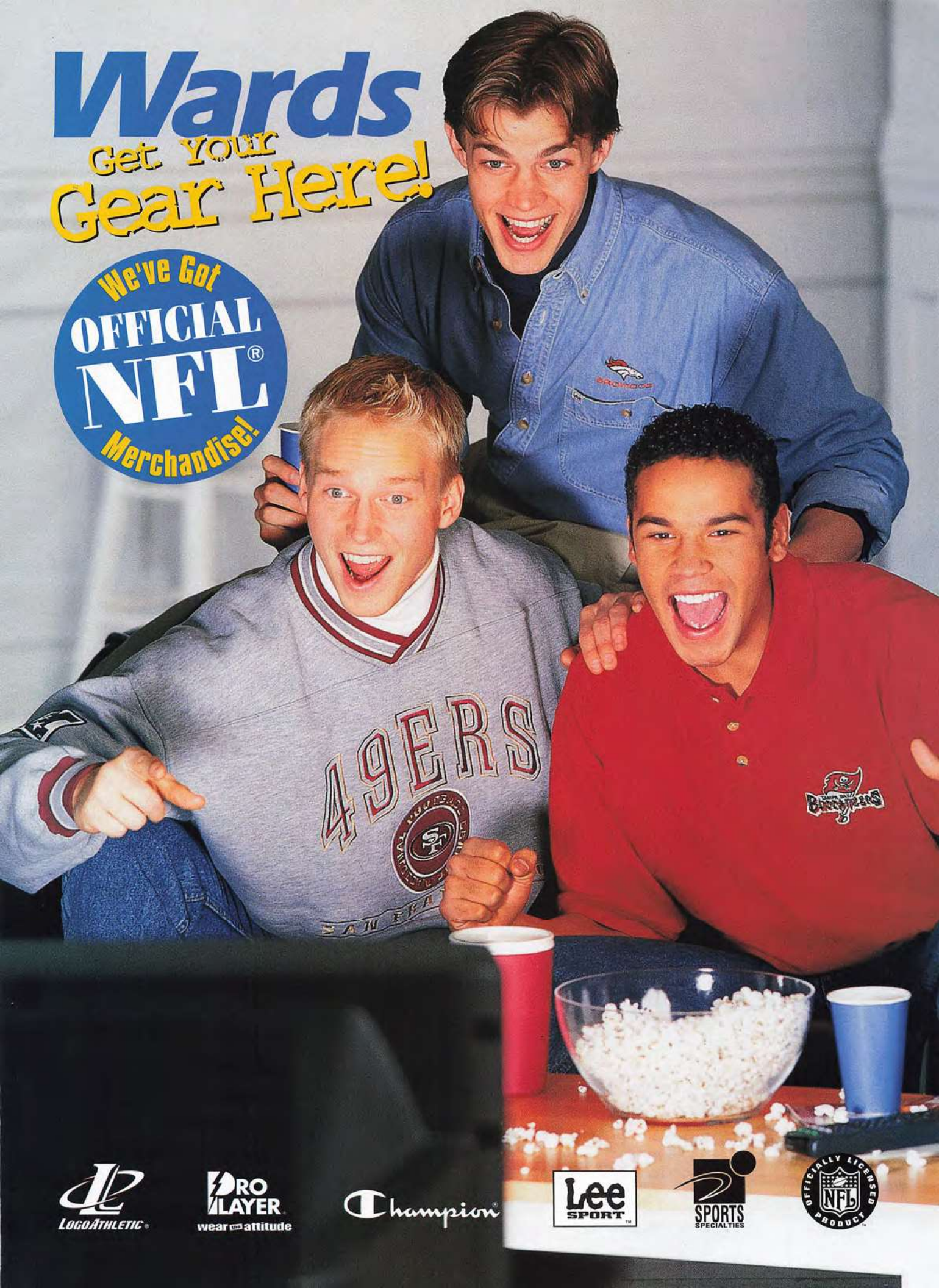
It was in 1967, when I was doing Rams games. It was my first time as a football announcer that I felt the power and responsibility of the microphone. The Rams were playing Green Bay near the end of the season at a time when the Packers were the best team in the league. The Rams were a good team, too—they were in a position to make the playoffs. We had a huge crowd (76,637), but the Rams were losing by four points and time nearly had expired. Typical of Los Angeles fans, they began to exit the stadium. But Donny Anderson's punt was blocked by Tony Guillory, and Claude Crabb picked it up and ran it to the 5-yard line. Roman Gabriel faked to Tommy Mason and threw to Bernie Casey for a touchdown to win it in the final seconds. It was a dramatic turnaround. Later, I learned that out on the streets there were these groups of people gathered around radios to hear my call of this finish.

What is the origin of your trademark expression "Oh my!"?

My mother said it a lot, usually in dismay over some behavior of mine. It's a midwestern phrase that you hear growing up in Michigan. When I had become a Big Ten announcer, I needed some punctuation mark. My first games at Indiana were football games, so in any exciting moment I would use "Oh my!" There are times when there aren't words to describe a moment, and "Oh my!" covers it all.

How would you script this Super Bowl?

This will be my eighth Super Bowl play-by-play chance, and there hasn't been that one truly memorable game. Each one in its own distinct way has elements to be remembered, but one of these Super Bowls it's all going to click. It's going to be overtime, it's going to be high drama, and something truly remarkable is going to happen. Thirty years from now, my grandchildren will talk about it: "Gee, Grandpa Enberg got to call that game." I'm hoping this might be the one.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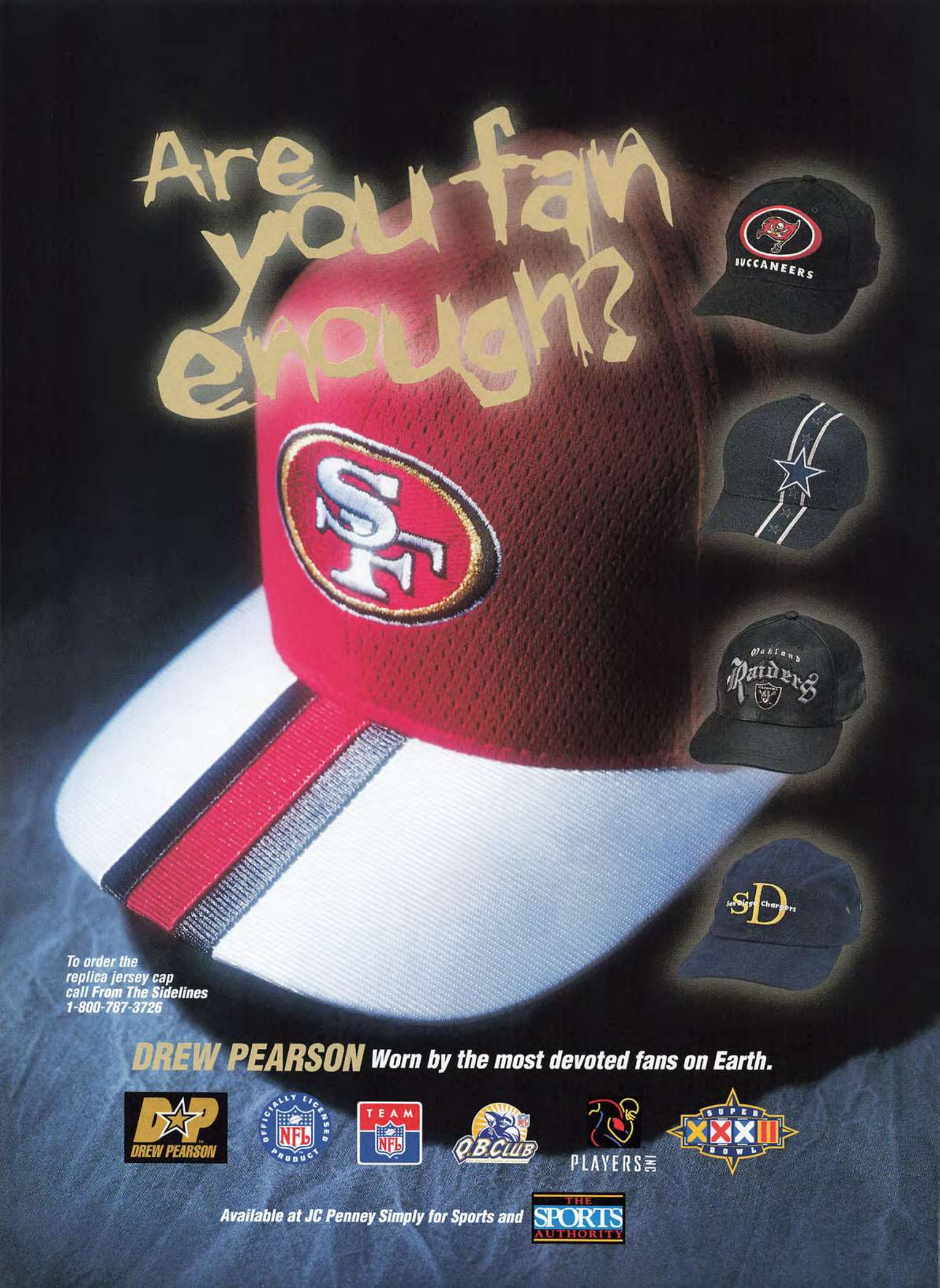
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ROAD TO KUNMING

When it comes to seeing the Super Bowl, no price is too great

By Phil Barber

There was a time when I actually considered missing the Super Bowl. Then I met Jed. I sat next to him on a plane a few months ago—Los Angeles to Buffalo, plenty of time for a story. He was an average-looking guy in every way—maybe 5-11, brown hair trimmed short, blue Dockers. I can't vouch for the veracity of Jed's tale. As I will explain, I have serious doubts of my own. But you can make your own decision about that.

It seems that in January, 1995, while the 49ers and Chargers prepared for Super Bowl XXIX, Jed flew to China—rural Yunan province—to consult on an energy project. It was the Chinese government's first attempt at a modern geothermal power plant, and they were having some trouble. Specifically, the steam seemed to be drying up before the turbines had begun to spin. The engineers wanted Jed, a hydrologist, to help figure out if there was more hot water down there somewhere, and how they might go about tapping it.

For a week or more, I guess, Jed really enjoyed the project. Then he encountered a problem. You see, he hadn't missed a Super Bowl since Super Bowl III, when, like a lot of 12-year-olds, he had been metamorphosed by the Jets' revolutionary victory. For most of a year following that game, he wore a tie-dyed shirt that said "NAMATH" on the back shoulders and "12" on the chest.

The Super Bowl had been a binding element of Jed's life ever since, a timepiece by which he measured winters. He could tell you—he did tell me—exactly where he was when Swann defied gravity in X, when Riggins took that fourth-and-1 play 43 yards in XVII, when Montana beat the clock in XXIII.

In China, the Super Bowl began to creep into his brain, crowding out all competing thoughts. Goal posts replaced centrifugal separators, and passing yards shoved aside kilowatts. When the head machinist asked if he had any questions, all Jed could think was: Will Deion get a chance to return punts? Is Seau healthy?

By the Saturday before game day, Jed was deeply agitated. He felt traitorous, as if someone was playing the "Star Spangled Banner" and he wasn't standing. He tossed and turned that night, fueled by reminiscences of past Super Bowl parties and the chicken-foot soup he had eaten at Yunnan Typical Golden Restaurant. Just before waking he had a dream that he was trying to catch an airplane, but it took off before he could reach it. The pilot was George Seifert.

That did it. Jed knew kickoff was set for 6 p.m. in Miami, which would be 7 a.m. (a day later) in China. The geothermal plant was about 100 miles from Kunming, the provincial capital, where Jed could find a large hotel with a television set.

"You have to come with me to Kunming," he informed his interpreter, a lovely but temperamental redhead who had majored in Chinese at Wellesley. "It's an emergency."

"I can't," she replied sympathetically.

She had met a man in town the night before, an Australian anthropologist studying the effects of industrialization on the marriage and dowry customs of the native Bai ethnic group. She was in love, she informed Jed, and was leaving for a romantic weekend in Shanghai. She did, however, take the trouble to write out some Chinese characters for Jed. The note basically said, "Please get me to Kunming as fast as possible."

After a brief, animated, and indecipherable tirade by the Chinese manager of the generating unit, Jed was deposited at the nearest bus terminus with his camera, backpack, and a portfolio of blueprints and topographical maps. Suddenly he was completely alone in a bewildering landscape of pull-carts and coal fires. He felt like the lone English-speaking person in a nation of 1 billion people.

When he showed his note to someone who looked vaguely official, a crowd gathered round. Two men began to quarrel, apparently over which bus Jed should board; at one point they had to be separated. Others joined in the debate and Jed finally was ushered onto a rather nicely appointed coach. He held out a handful of money and the driver took eight 10-yuan notes.

Two hours later Jed was winding through the hilly Yunan countryside, accompanied by a representative sample of Chinese society. Suddenly the

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KELLEY

vehicle lurched to a halt, which resulted in a great deal of conferring and wandering about. After some time Jed stepped into the weak sunlight, where he encountered the vehicle's fuel-delivery system, its component parts—intake manifold, carburetor, air cleaner, numerous nuts and bolts—dismantled and arranged on the road like ingredients awaiting a stir-fry.

A quick fix seemed out of the question, especially when the driver, who held one unlit cigarette in his lips and another behind each ear, fled the scene. "Maybe he went for parts," Jed thought. "Or maybe I'll die here in anonymity."

Most of the passengers curled up and went to sleep on the bus, but Jed was wired. When a big, grunting truck stopped to gauge the situation, he instinctively thrust his hand-written message in the face of the driver, who motioned to the walled bed behind him. It was a yam truck. Jed climbed atop an unstable dune of tuberous roots, where he shared space with another, mildly surprised hitchhiker. Jed figures he spent an hour sloshing around on the yams. Then he was transferred to a small van full of spooked schoolchildren, then to another truck. This one was filled with raucous turkeys in stacks of cramped cages.

In China, the Super Bowl began to creep into his brain, crowding out all competing thoughts. Goal posts replaced centrifugal separators, and passing yards shoved aside kilowatts.

During these various legs of travel, Jed had absolutely no idea where he was. For all he knew, he could be plunging deeper and deeper into the agrarian hinterlands of the Middle Kingdom. What if he never made it to Kunming? And if he did, how would he even know he was there?

It was late afternoon and growing cold when the turkey truck deposited him in another gray, industrial town. Jed hustled along the sidewalk, past blind men giving shoulder massages and street-corner specialists removing ear wax from their placid patients with long, thin scoops. A man who seemed to be clothed entirely in electronic goods approached Jed. Radios, calculators, and cellular phones hung from him like Christmas ornaments. He handed Jed a camera, but his Mandarin pitch was cut short by a stout woman who nearly flattened the both of them as she ran down the sidewalk. Other people raced past, and then Jed saw why: A crazed dog was on the loose.

The animal growled menacingly, froth dripping to the ground. The electronics guy shrieked and ran away. Jed was scared to move. But when the afflicted dog made a sudden lunge toward him, Jed barreled through the nearest door.

It was an office, stacked floor to ceiling with files and boxes. As Jed stood there panting, a jowly man limped quickly around a corner cradling a steamy bowl with his outstretched fingers. The man started, spilling a small amount of broth onto his hand. He began to shout, and his exclamations were echoed by other voices within the office. Jed considered bolting out the door, but he thought the dog might still be there. Within minutes, a member of the People's Liberation Army burst into the office brandishing a semi-automatic rifle. He looked at the camera slung over Jed's shoulder, at the blueprints and maps in his hand, and at his American face, and decided what the others were screaming was right: They had found a spy.

(Jed later found out it was a regional office of the Department of Fisheries upon which he had intruded. Were they afraid he would pilfer state secrets regarding catfish?)

He soon found himself sitting in the back of another smoky diesel truck, with two armed soldiers, both college-aged.

"You know, I think the Chargers are gonna do it," Jed said wearily. "They're gonna win. They're a team of destiny."

The college kids didn't smile, but they nodded politely.

"Milk Duds?" Jed asked them, producing the familiar yellow box from his backpack. A friend of Jed's who works for the *Associated Press* had advised him to take along cartons of cigarettes as gifts, or as graft. But Jed couldn't bring himself to dole out known carcinogens to his foreign hosts, so he compromised by stockpiling candy. The soldiers chewed their stale Milk Duds silently.

Jed was groggy with fatigue by the time he climbed out of the truck. He didn't see the small, slippery puddle before him, and he tumbled headlong through the door, badly bruising his elbow and scratching his eyeglasses.

As he looked up from the chilly pavement, however, his heart expanded with hope. Because 30 yards in front of him, behind a noodle vendor and a barbed-wire fence, was a satellite dish, its stamen pointed faithfully to the heavens.

Jed knew it was time to plead as he never had before.

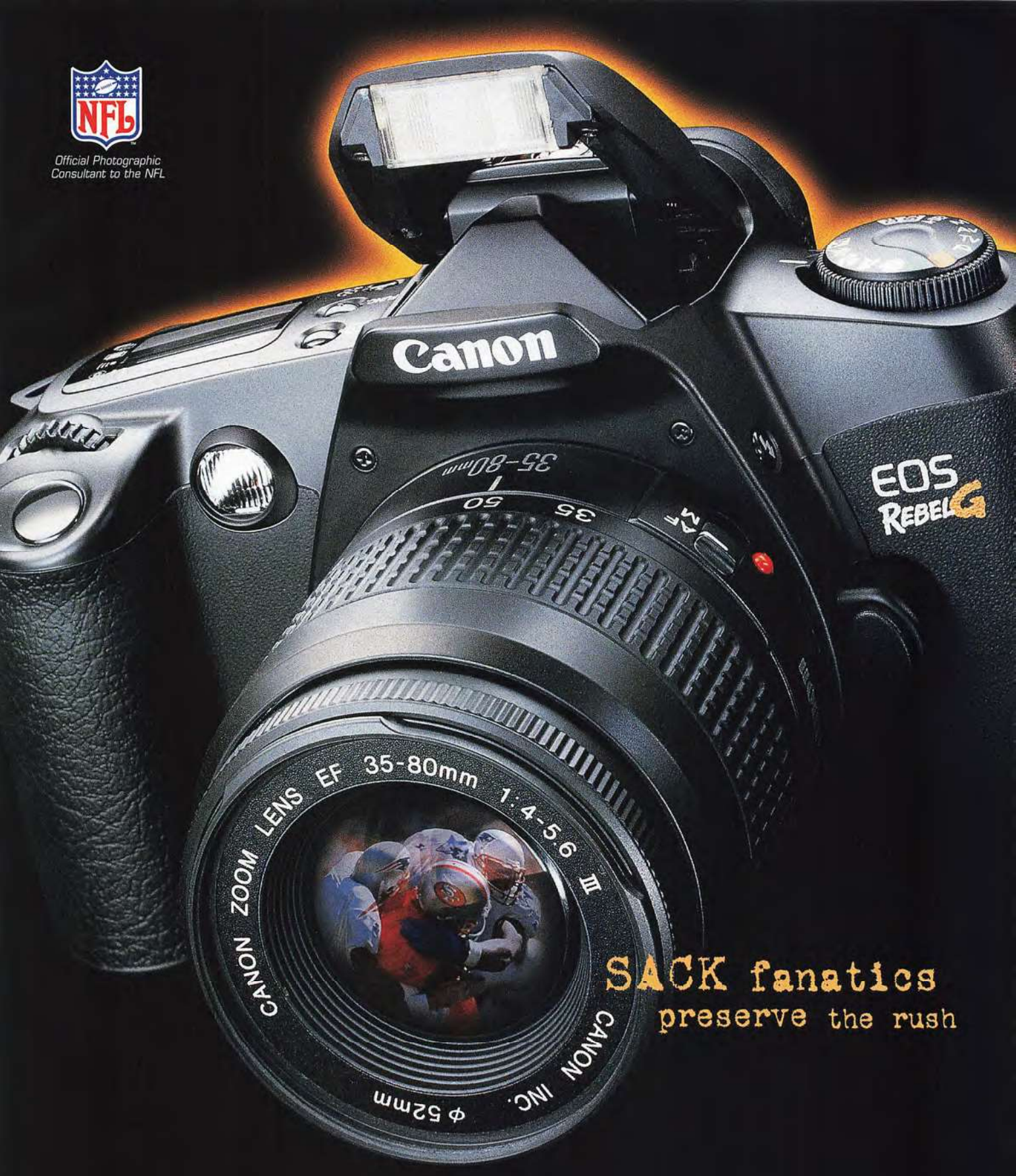
The next morning, as the Chinese government phoned the American consulate in Hong Kong to announce a potentially ugly international incident, Jed sat in a bare detention room and witnessed every play of Super Bowl XXIX. Nine soldiers in olive-green uniforms watched the spectacle with him, wagered furiously, and mined a mountain of black licorice ropes and Reese's peanut-butter cups, jawbreakers, and Skittles.

The team of destiny did not win, and Jed was about to be deported from the People's Republic as a spy. "I couldn't make out a word of the commentary unless they said 'Jerry Rice' or 'Natrone Means'—and I barely could understand that," he recounted. "But I'll tell you this: Never in my life have I enjoyed a football game more."

Jed finished his story just as the plane touched down, and he hurried off to make a connecting flight. A woman sitting in a seat next to me wrinkled her face and asked, "You don't believe any of that nonsense, do you?"

"Why not?" I replied. "You've heard weirder."

But you know what? It doesn't matter. What matters is this: From now on, when late January rolls around, I'm not going anywhere in the world that doesn't have a wide-screen TV.



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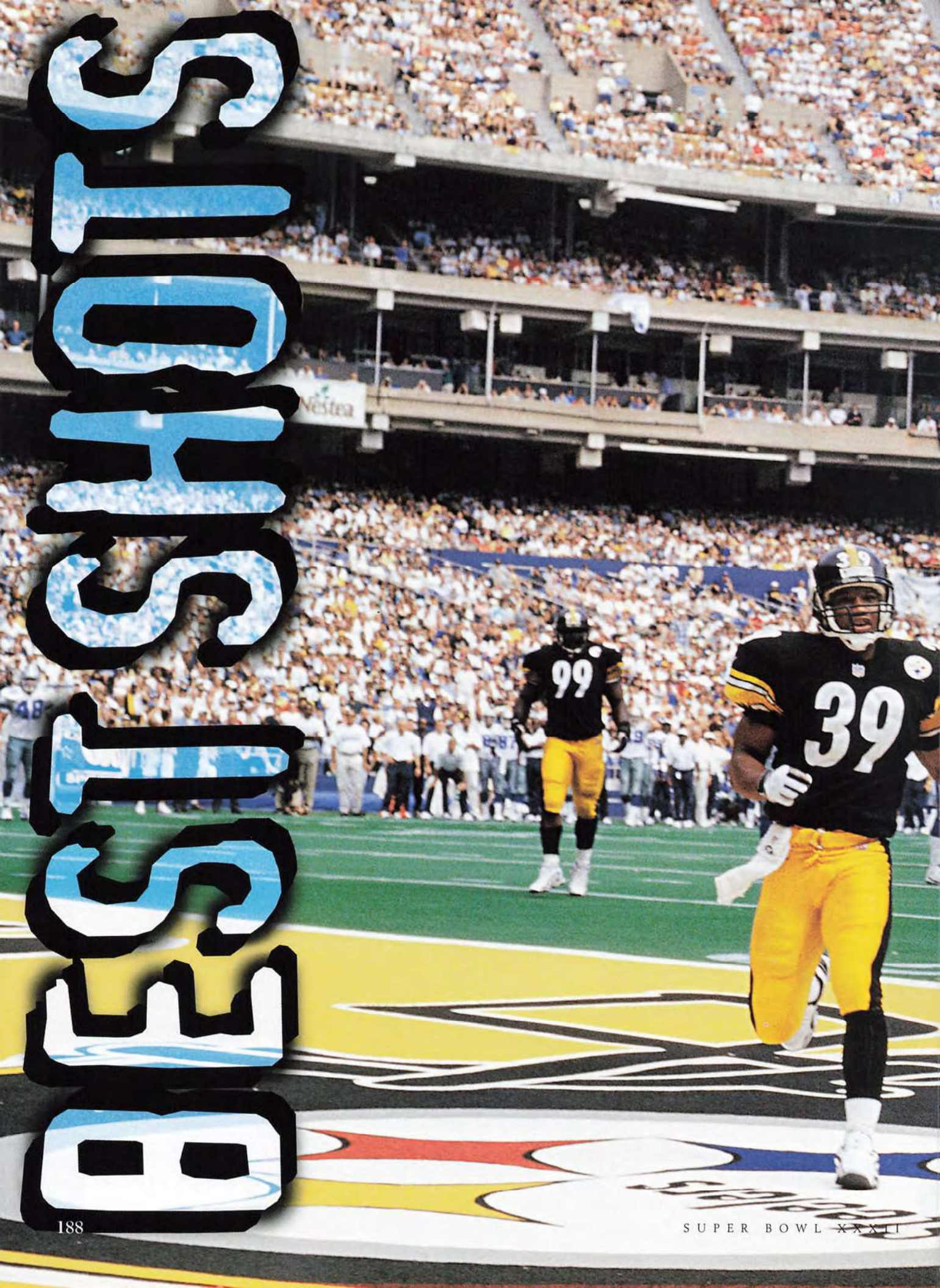
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39

A Cowboy Story:
Michael Irvin's touchdown catch over Chad Scott helped the Cowboys open the season with a 37-7 victory over Pittsburgh.

TONY TOMSIC

GREG TROTT

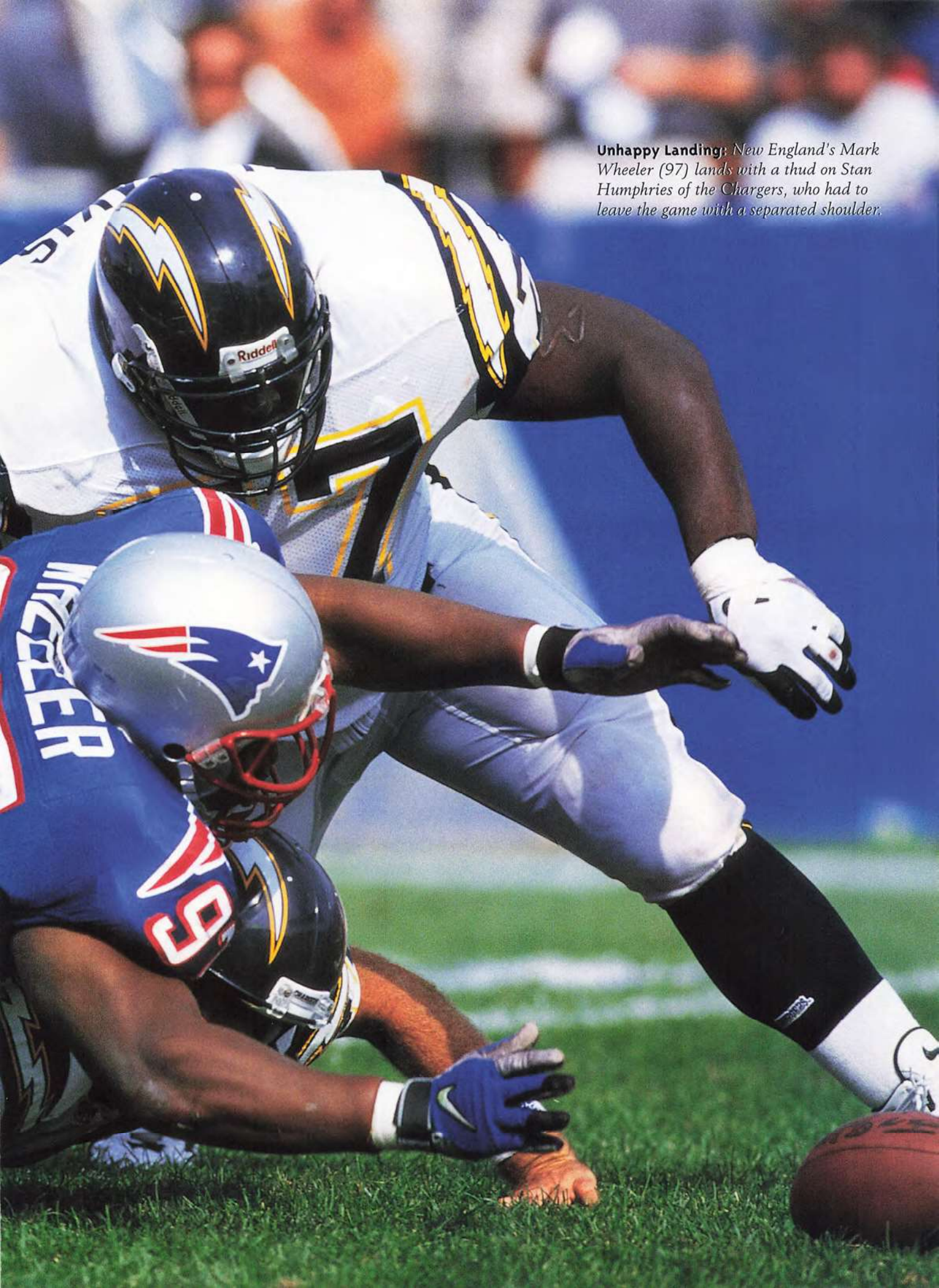
Empty-Handed: *The Oilers' Darryll Lewis (29) and the Cardinals' Kevin Williams reach for an elusive prize on a day when Tennessee came up with the biggest catch—a 41-14 victory .*

The First of Many: *Barry Sanders of the Lions, who led the NFL with 2,053 rushing yards, races toward his first of a record-breaking 14 straight 100-yard rushing games.*

JOHN H. REID

Record Breaker: *Terrell Davis of Denver leaves a Bengals defender grasping at air on his way to a club-record 215 rushing yards.*

DAVID STLUKA



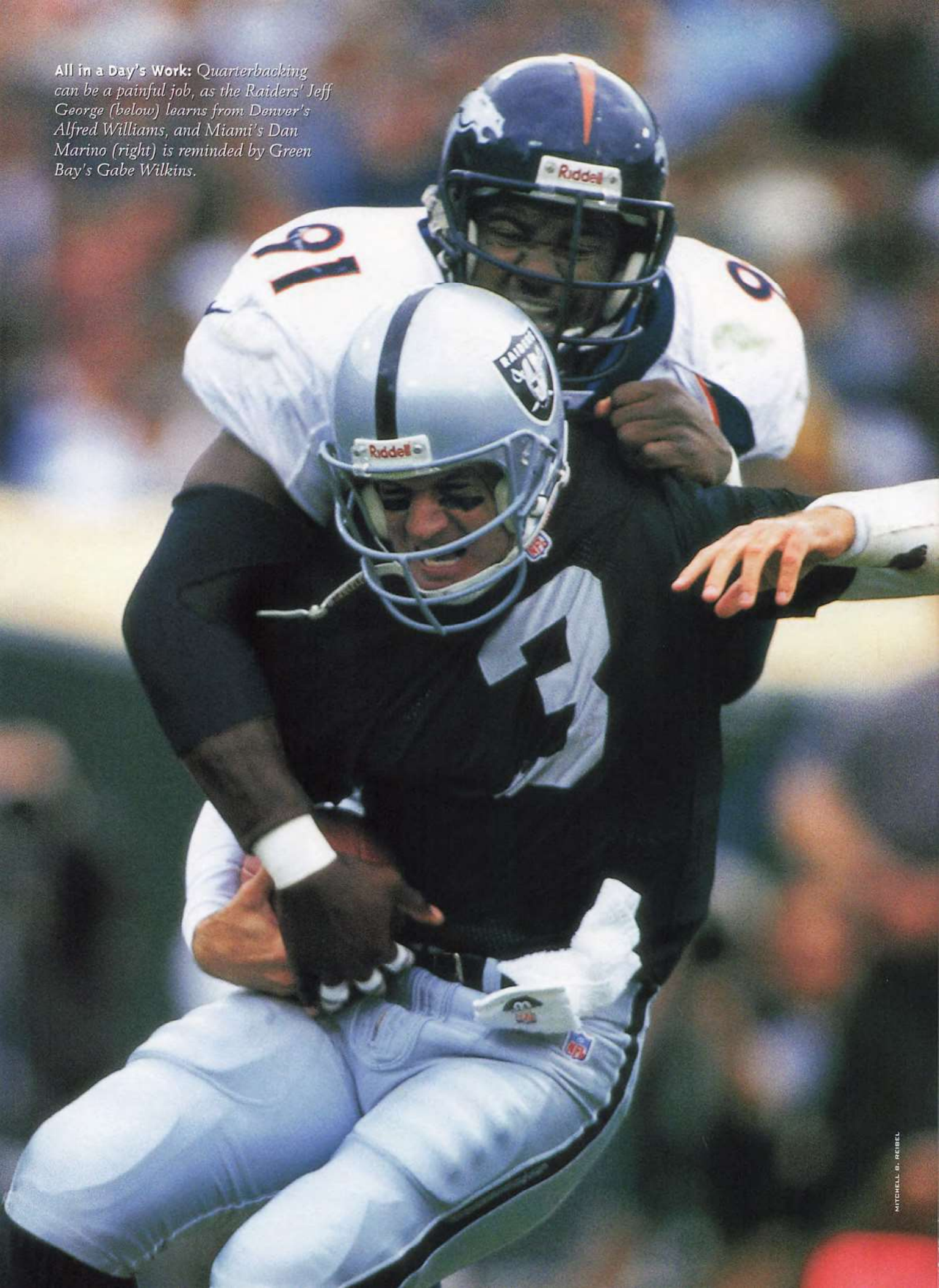
Unhappy Landing: *New England's Mark Wheeler (97) lands with a thud on Stan Humphries of the Chargers, who had to leave the game with a separated shoulder.*

Collision Course: *As Packers wide receiver Antonio Freeman (86) goes airborne for a pass, he learns that the Rams' Toby Wright has the same idea.*

JOE ROBBINS

Big Game, Big Play: *In a battle between the NFL's last two unbeaten teams, Denver's Rod Smith snares a 47-yard pass over the Patriots' Ty Law.*

JOE POLLOT



All in a Day's Work: *Quarterbacking can be a painful job, as the Raiders' Jeff George (below) learns from Denver's Alfred Williams, and Miami's Dan Marino (right) is reminded by Green Bay's Gabe Wilkins.*

TODD ROSENBERG

Concentration: *The Cowboys' Anthony Miller focuses on the ball while 49ers defender Darrell Walker frantically tries to catch up. But San Francisco had the last word in a 17-10 victory.*

70

Headstrong: *Neither the Jets' Adrian Murrell (29) nor the Ravens' Ray Lewis gives any ground as they get together in the rain.*

BOB EWELL

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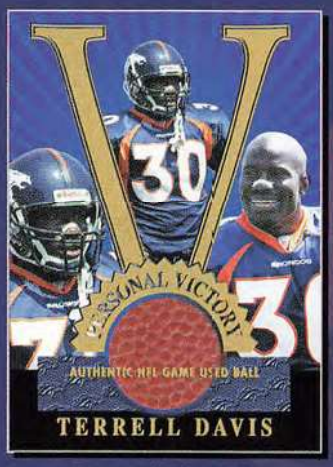

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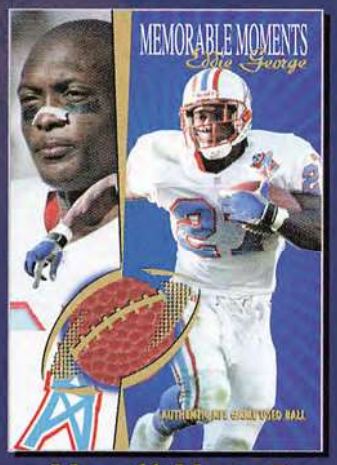

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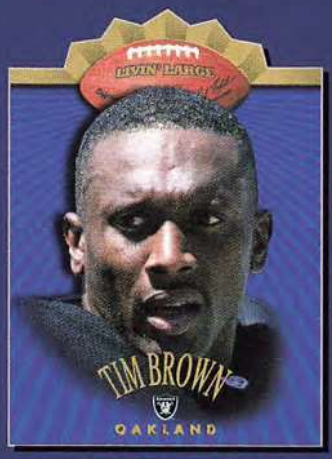

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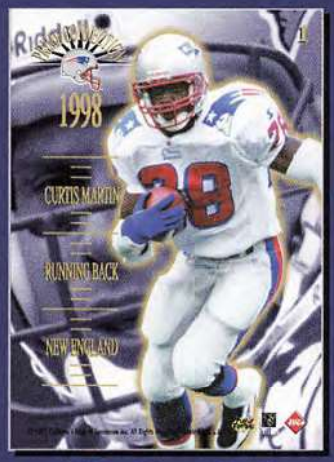

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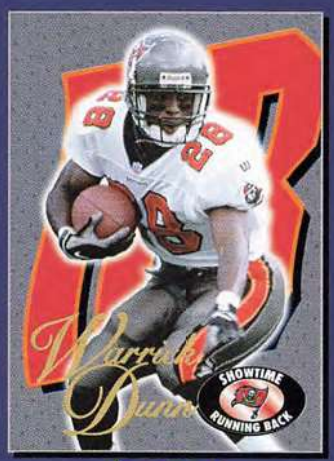

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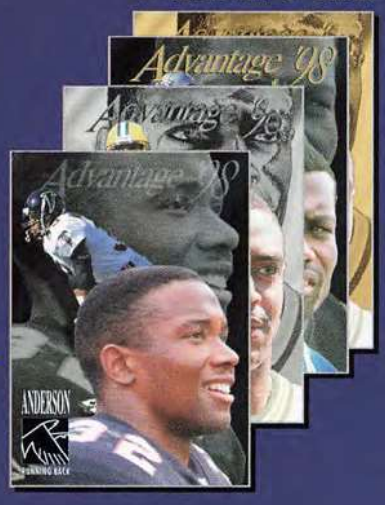

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1997 NFL UPDATE 1998

NEWS AND NOTES FROM ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Many Roads to the Pros

Urban League Convention Showcased NFL Display: 'You Don't Have to Wear Pads...'

Fans are not apt to recognize their names. It is doubtful that card collectors have seen their faces. But the nine personalities who were featured in a special exhibit produced by the NFL this season are every bit as much a part of pro football as Junior Seau, Barry Sanders, or Reggie White.

The featured subjects—seven men and two women—are African-American executives who hold a variety of club and league positions. They were highlighted in August at the National Urban League's annual convention in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit was designed by NFL Properties to show that African-Americans can develop sports-related careers through the pursuit of education as well as through achievements on the playing field. The exhibit, titled "You Don't have to Wear Pads to Make a Career in the Pros," was presented as a series of posters, each featuring the executive's portrait, a motivational quote, and a personality profile.

Featured in the series were Ronnie Barnes, head trainer for the New York Giants; Adrian Barr, vice president of finance for the St. Louis Rams; Deron Cherry, minority owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars; Bobby Grier, vice president of player personnel for the New England Patriots; Johnny Grier, an NFL referee; Adele Harris, community relations director for the Arizona Cardinals; Harold Henderson, executive vice president of the NFL Management Council; Michael Huyghue, vice president of football operations for the Jaguars; and Reggie Roberts, director of communications for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Each personality was identified with a subtitle that related in to the NFL mantra ("Feel the Power") such as "the power of preparation," "the power of perseverance," and the "power of opportunity."

Beneath the subtitle on the poster that featured New England's Grier ("the power of determination") was Grier's message to aspiring sports executives: "Achievement is limited only by your determination to attain it. Any goal lies within your willingness to do what it takes to reach it."

The National Urban League, founded in 1910, is a nonprofit, community-based organization headquartered in New York that works to promote socio-economic advancement for African-Americans. NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue is a member of the organization's board of trustees.

"The NFL supports the National Urban League's mission to assist African-Americans in the achievement of social and economic equality," Tagliabue says. "We hope our exhibit at this year's convention will inspire young African-Americans to pursue their dreams on and off the playing fields."

MICHAEL BURR/NFLP

JOHN STUDWELL

Behind the Scenes: *Adele Harris of the Cardinals and Michael Huyghue of the Jaguars were among the off-field NFL personalities featured in the National Urban League display.*

NFL MILESTONES

Dillon Runs Past an NFL Legend

Corey Dillon of the Cincinnati Bengals broke a rookie rushing record that had survived 40 NFL seasons when he gained 246 yards in a 41-14 victory over the Tennessee Oilers on December 4. The previous record (237 yards), set in 1957, belonged to legendary running back Jim Brown, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

JOE ROBBINS

NFL MILESTONES

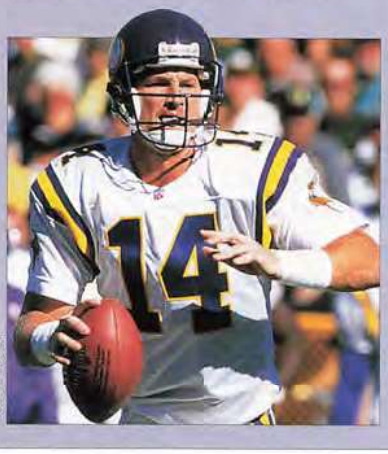
Jake Makes Way Into Record Book

Arizona Cardinals quarterback Jake Plummer, who began the season on the bench, wrote his name into the record book on November 16 with 388 passing yards against the New York Giants, best ever by an NFL rookie. The old record (379 yards) was set in 1979 by the Dallas Cowboys' Troy Aikman against—guess who—the Cardinals.

GREG TROTT

Vikings' One-Man Scoring Machine

When a quarterback throws a lot of touchdown passes, it is hard to select the most memorable one. But Minnesota's Brad Johnson, who threw 20 in 1997 before he was sidelined with an injury, should have no trouble. On October 12, in a 21-14 victory over Carolina, he threw one to himself. After his pass from the Panthers' 3-yard line was blocked, he plucked it from the air, put his head down, and scored—the only time in NFL history that a player completed a touchdown pass to himself.



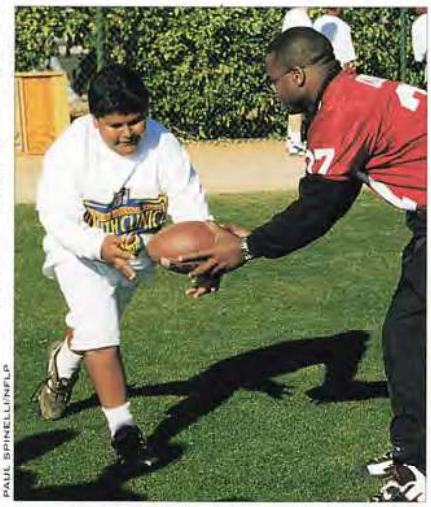
DAVE STLUKA

PLAY FOOTBALL!

Youngsters Get a Taste of America's Favorite Game by Participating in NFL Programs

Where are the Brett Favres and Kordell Stewarts of tomorrow? They are outside playing flag football today. That is what the NFL had in mind when it unveiled Play Football!—a far-ranging invitation for youngsters to enjoy America's favorite game.

The program incorporates a variety of elements designed to appeal to kids—from organized flag-football leagues to nationwide Punt, Pass & Kick competition to colorful publishing projects to online computer access. The goal of Play Football! is to get as many kids as possible playing, watching, and learning about the game. Among the initiatives under way:



PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Football Fundamentals: *New NFL programs enable youngsters to get a handle on pro football.*

• NFL Gatorade Punt, Pass & Kick: One of the largest youth sports contests in America, the venerable PP&K competition just keeps getting bigger. Separate divisions for boys and girls were created in 1996. In 1997, more than 500,000 youngsters participated. Winners were honored at halftime of an AFC Divisional Playoff Game. A local exhibition will be held Saturday of Super Week.

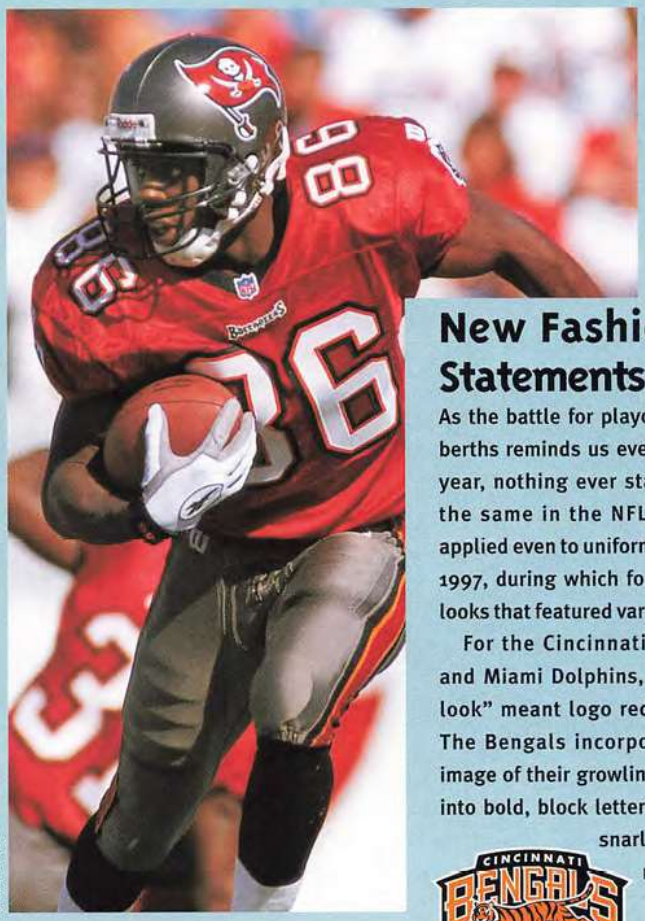
• NFL Flag, Presented by Nike: Flag football leagues, created with the help of local and national youth sports agencies, have expanded to 20 cities, with plans for further expansion in 1998. Boys and girls ages 6 to 14 can take part in spring and fall leagues. NFL Flag games will be part of the NFL Youth Clinics during Super Week in San Diego.

• NFL C.I.T.Y.: Now playing in seven NFL cities, the NFL C.I.T.Y. program (Challenge and Inspire Today's Youth) combines the fun and energy of flag football with structured programs for inner-city kids. C.I.T.Y. will debut in San Diego during Super Week.

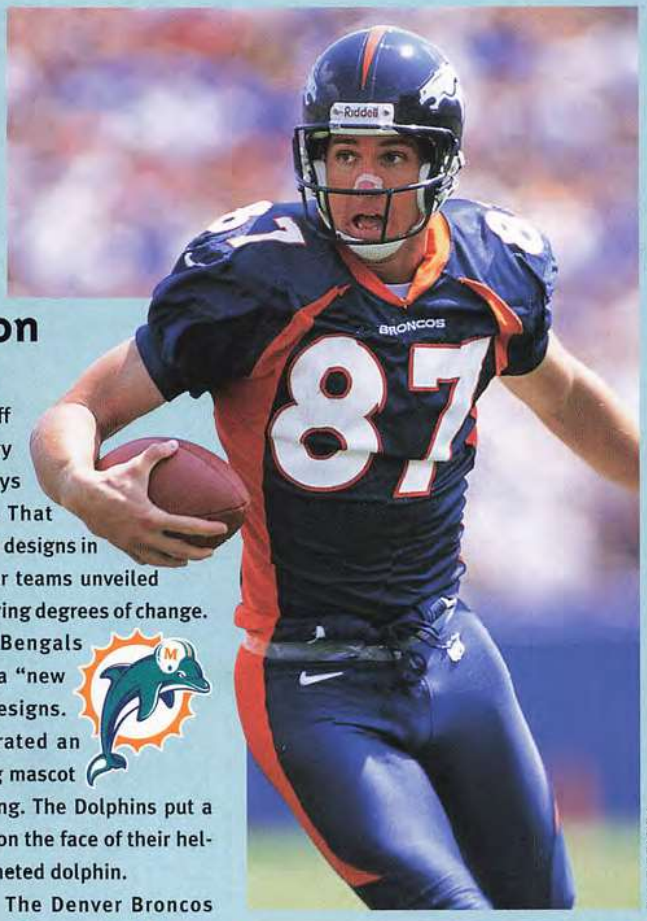
• NFL JCPenney/Starter Take a Player to School: "Today, for show and tell, I've brought Emmitt Smith." Imagine the smiles that statement would bring to youngsters' faces. Through the Take a Player to School program, that is just what happens to winners in every NFL city. At Starter retailers and JCPenney stores nationwide, kids entered drawings.

• Play Football! Online: This special kids-only section of nfl.com made its debut in the 1997, featuring kid-friendly games, weekly NFL News for Kids, playing tips from NFL stars, polls, contests, and more. It was created by the NFL and Theatrix Learning Technologies.

• Monday Night Football Club Books: What kid wouldn't like to be John Elway for a day? Or Junior Seau? Or Jerry Rice? These fantasies come true in the new fiction series from the NFL and Hyperion Books for Children. Written by noted children's author Gordon Korman, the books follow a group of football-crazy kids who use magic jerseys to morph into their favorite players.



GREG CRISP



DAVID DRAPKIN

New Fashion Statements

As the battle for playoff berths reminds us every year, nothing ever stays the same in the NFL. That applied even to uniform designs in 1997, during which four teams unveiled looks that featured varying degrees of change.

For the Cincinnati Bengals and Miami Dolphins, a "new look" meant logo redesigns. The Bengals incorporated an image of their growling mascot into bold, block lettering. The Dolphins put a snarl on the face of their helmeted dolphin.

The Denver Broncos and Tampa Bay Buccaneers made bolder fashion statements, with redesigned uniforms and helmets. The Broncos' redesign, developed in part by uniform supplier Nike, incorporates team colors orange, navy blue, and white on jerseys accented with bold stripes. The logo includes the image of a horse's head, with mane flowing.

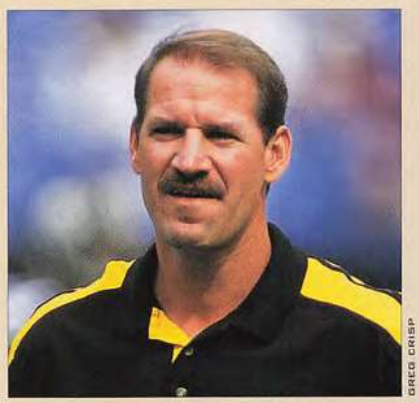
The Buccaneers' uniforms, designed by NFL Properties, combine red, pewter, black, and orange with a logo identifiable by its menacing Jolly Roger flag. The new-look Buccaneers earned their first playoff berth since 1982.

NFL MILESTONES

Cowher's Playoff Mark: Six for Six

No one in Pittsburgh has forgotten Chuck Noll, who coached the Pittsburgh Steelers to four Super Bowl titles, but not even he could match a feat accomplished by his successor, Bill Cowher. The 40-year-old Cowher is only the second head coach in NFL history to lead his team to the playoffs in each of his first six seasons (Paul Brown directed the Cleveland Browns to postseason berths—in those days, there was no playoffs tournament and Brown's teams all made it to the NFC Championship Game from 1950-55.)

The Steelers have finished atop the AFC Central Division five times under Cowher. On four of these occasions, they won 11 or more games. But one prize still eludes the Pittsburgh coach: a Super Bowl title. His nearest miss came after the 1995 season, when the Steelers lost to Dallas 21-17 in Super Bowl XXX.



GREG CRISP

The (Inter)National Football League

America's Favorite Game Finds Fans in Other Lands

America's fascination with pro football hardly is a secret. Independent surveys for the last three decades have shown it to be the nation's most popular sport. The Super Bowl telecast inevitably generates the largest audience of the television season. *Monday Night Football* is the second-longest running prime-time show on TV.

What's not as well known is how far and wide the NFL's impact is felt in the rest of the world. For instance:

- More than 180 countries and territories, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, will televise Super Bowl XXXII.
- There will be 17 international telecast crews in San Diego for the game, with 14 broadcast teams calling the action live in 10 different languages.
- The estimated worldwide viewing audience is expected to exceed 800 million people.

Radio broadcasts will bring the game to even more worldwide fans. BBC Radio will air its call of the game live throughout the United Kingdom starting at 11 P.M. local time. LBC Cadena Latina will broadcast the game in Spanish for Hispanic stations throughout Mexico and the United States. And Armed Forces Radio will send its signal to military outposts all over the globe.

SEAN RYAN (2)

Crowning Achievement: *The Barcelona Dragons defeated the Scottish Claymores in the championship game to cap an exciting World League season.*

The expansive coverage reflects a remarkable growth pattern. Less than a decade ago (Super Bowl XXIII), the game was seen in only 35 countries. But Super Bowl Sunday is only the tip of the international iceberg.

A prime example is the World League, a jointly sponsored effort of the NFL and FOX-TV, with six European-based teams playing American football in a 10-game spring schedule. In 1997, World League teams played to an average crowd of nearly 18,000 per game, and 31,1000 watched World Bowl '97, the league's championship game.

The NFL maintains an international presence throughout the year. In the preseason, NFL teams visit foreign sites in the annual American Bowl series—a tradition first begun in 1986. American Bowl games have been played in London, Barcelona, Berlin, Tokyo, Mexico City, and Toronto, among other sites. In 1997, the league made its first visit to Dublin, where the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Chicago Bears 30-17 on July 27.

Foreign journalists regularly report on NFL games. Notable among those is Jose Roberto (Pep) Espinoza, the play-by-play voice of Mexico's TV Azteca for the last 21 years.

Special programming packages also deliver NFL action to worldwide locales. *NFL Blast*, a 30-minute weekly show created by NFL International and produced by NFL Films, showcases the best of the NFL in 23 episodes that are shown throughout the world.

America's favorite sport is finding new aficionados in every country.

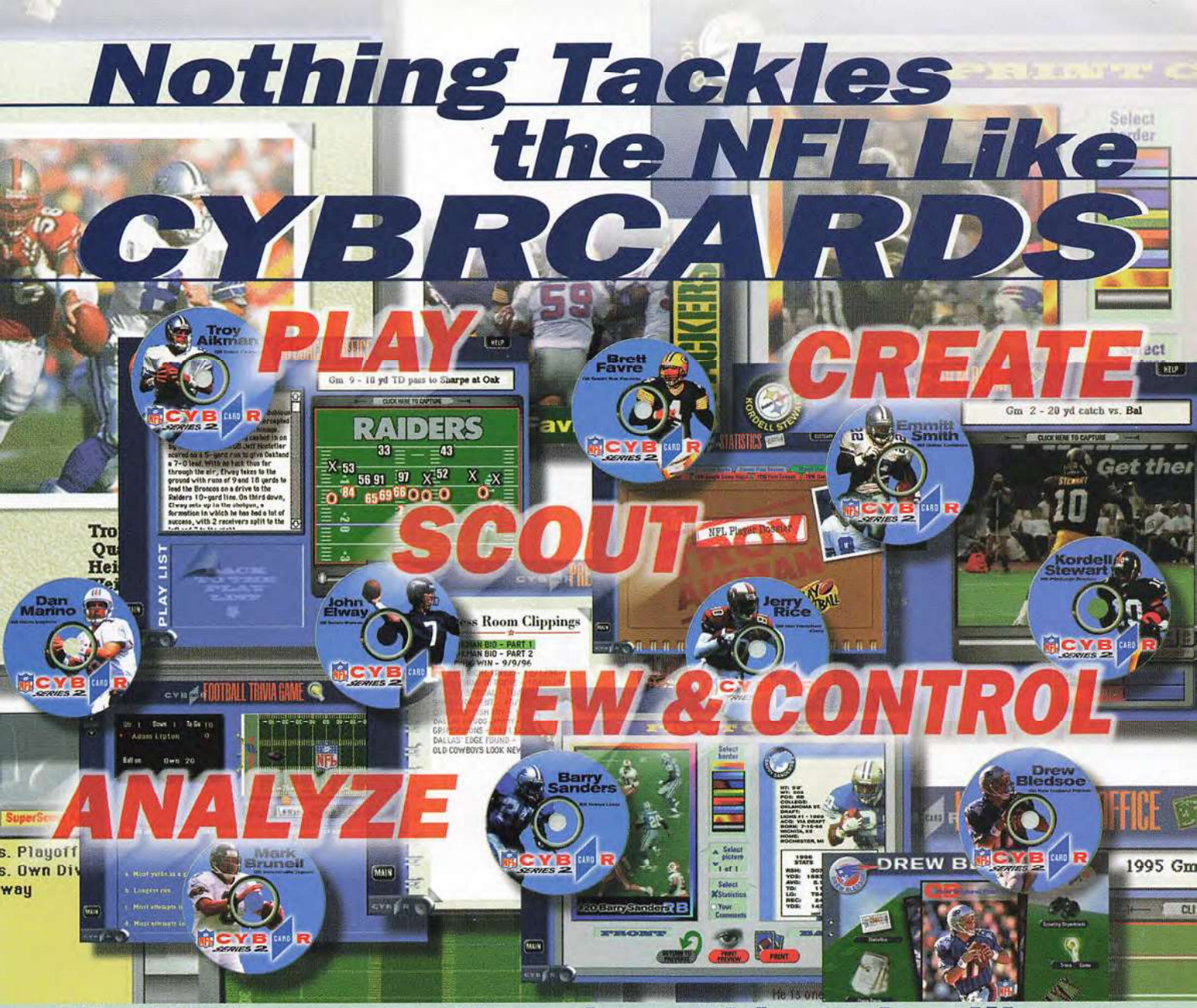
NFL MILESTONES

No Barrier for Barry

It is no surprise when Barry Sanders gains 100 rushing yards in a game. But not even Sanders had managed that feat in 14 consecutive games—until this season. The Lions' star running back, after falling short in weeks 1 and 2, cleared the century mark in his last 14 games. That broke a record set by Marcus Allen (11 games) across the 1985-86 seasons. Sanders finished the year with an astounding 2,053 yards.

ALLEN KEE

Nothing Tackles the NFL Like CYBRCARDS



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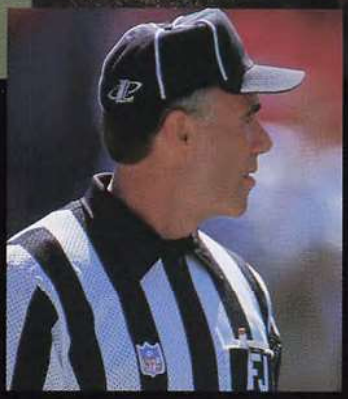
Whether you
make the calls



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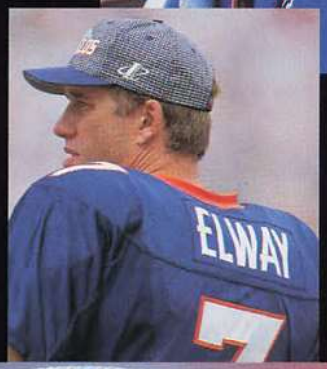
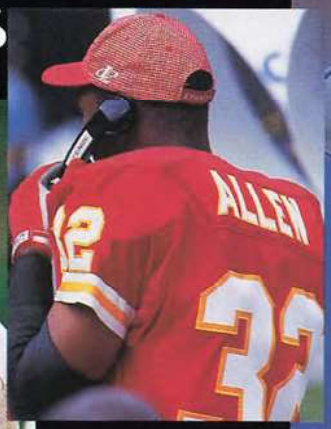


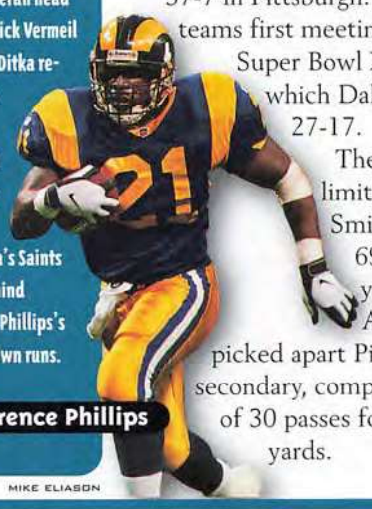
Whether you
make the plays



NFL PRO LINE AUTHENTIC

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Kickoff '97 Weekend's most exciting finish came in Cincinnati, where the Bengals overcame an 18-point, fourth-quarter deficit to defeat the Cardinals 24-21. Jeff Blake's 6-yard touchdown pass to Carl Pickens with 38 seconds left provided the winning points... Terry Allen ran for 2 touchdowns and Washington forced 4 turnovers while handing Carolina its first loss at Ericsson Stadium, 24-10... Kansas City had won an NFL-best seven consecutive games on opening day, but the Chiefs were shut down by the Broncos 19-3 in Denver...Bill Parcells enjoyed a smashing debut as the Jets' coach when his new team walloped the Seahawks 41-3...Veteran head coaches Dick Vermeil and Mike Ditka returned to the sidelines, and Vermeil's Rams beat Ditka's Saints 38-24 behind Lawrence Phillips's 3 touchdown runs.



Lawrence Phillips

MIKE ELIASON

In Defense of Their Title

Super Bowl XXXI-champion Green Bay began the season by defeating Chicago 38-24.

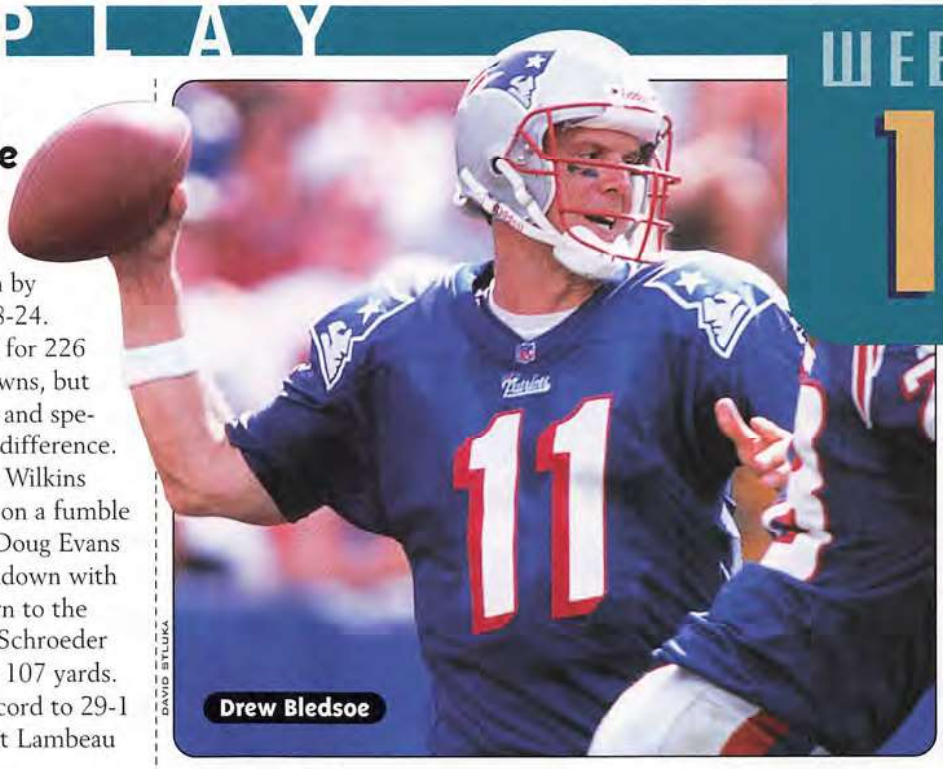
Brett Favre passed for 226 yards and 2 touchdowns, but the Packers' defense and special teams made the difference. Defensive end Gabe Wilkins scored a touchdown on a fumble return, cornerback Doug Evans set up another touchdown with an interception return to the 1-yard line, and Bill Schroeder returned 5 punts for 107 yards. Green Bay ran its record to 29-1 in its last 30 games at Lambeau Field.

Drew Bledsoe threw 4 touchdown passes in defending AFC-champion New England's 41-7 rout of San Diego.

Back on Their High Horse

Dallas's offense struggled late in the 1996 season, scoring only 5 touchdowns in the last six games. But behind Troy Aikman's 4 touchdown passes, the Cowboys blasted the Steelers 37-7 in Pittsburgh. It was the teams first meeting since Super Bowl XXX, which Dallas won 27-17.

The Steelers limited Emmitt Smith to only 69 rushing yards, but Aikman picked apart Pittsburgh's secondary, completing 19 of 30 passes for 295 yards.



Drew Bledsoe

DAVID STLUKA

Reversal of Fortune

The Buccaneers, who buried themselves by opening the 1996 season with five consecutive defeats, spotted San Francisco a pair of first-half field goals, then rallied to stun the 49ers 13-6. It was the first time since 1991 that San Francisco had failed to score a touchdown.

Michael Husted kicked 2 field goals and Trent Dilfer's 1-yard touchdown pass to tight end Dave Moore with 9:21 left provided the winning points.

San Francisco wide receiver Jerry Rice tore ligaments in his knee in the third quarter and was pronounced lost for the season following surgery the next day.

SCORES

AFC
Denver 19, Kansas City 3
Jacksonville 28, **Baltimore** 27
Miami 16, Indianapolis 10
New England 41, San Diego 7
N.Y. Jets 41, **Seattle** 3
Tennessee 24, Oakland 21 (OT)

NFC
Detroit 28, Atlanta 17
Green Bay 38, Chicago 24
N.Y. Giants 31, Philadelphia 17
St. Louis 38, New Orleans 24
Tampa Bay 13, San Francisco 6
Washington 24, **Carolina** 10

INTERCONFERENCE
Cincinnati 24, Arizona 21
Dallas 37, **Pittsburgh** 7
Minnesota 34, **Buffalo** 13
(Home teams in bold)

August Performances

On the earliest starting date in NFL history (August 31), several players had notable outings.

Neil O'Donnell's 5 touchdown passes in the Jets' 41-3 victory over the Seahawks in Seattle equaled the league record for the most on opening day. The Jets' John Hall made a 55-yard field goal on his first NFL kick.

In Tennessee, Oakland's Tim Brown caught 3 touchdown passes, but that wasn't enough to offset Eddie George's 216 rushing yards as the Oilers beat the Raiders 24-21 in overtime.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	1	0	0
New England	1	0	0
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0
Buffalo	0	1	0
Indianapolis	0	1	0

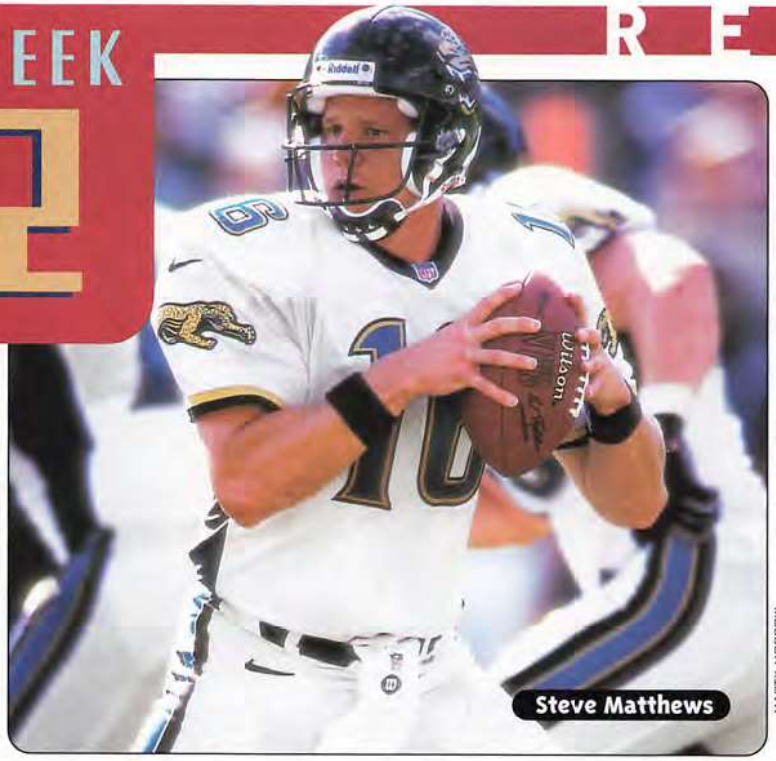
AFC Central	W	L	T
Cincinnati	1	0	0
Jacksonville	1	0	0
Tennessee	1	0	0
Baltimore	0	1	0
Pittsburgh	0	1	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	1	0	0
Kansas City	0	1	0
Oakland	0	1	0
San Diego	0	1	0
Seattle	0	1	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	1	0	0
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0
Washington	1	0	0
Arizona	0	1	0
Philadelphia	0	1	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Detroit	1	0	0
Green Bay	1	0	0
Minnesota	1	0	0
Tampa Bay	1	0	0
Chicago	0	1	0

NFC West	W	L	T
St. Louis	1	0	0
Atlanta	0	1	0
Carolina	0	1	0
New Orleans	0	1	0
San Francisco	0	1	0


Steve Matthews

MARTY MORROW

Something in Reserve

Jacksonville beat Baltimore on Kickoff Weekend behind Rob Johnson, who made his first NFL start in place of injured Mark Brunell. But with Johnson nursing a sore ankle, the Jaguars turned to Steve Matthews in week 2. Matthews passed for 252 yards in his first start, and Jacksonville pounded the Giants 40-13.

The Jaguars weren't the only team to win with a backup quarterback:

- In New Orleans, San Diego's Jim Everett, playing in place of injured Stan Humphries, threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to tight end Freddie Jones to secure the Chargers' 20-6 victory over the Saints, the team that released Everett in the offseason.
- Jim Druckenmiller filled in for Steve Young and threw a touchdown pass in the 49ers' 15-12 victory over the Rams.

Alarming Development

Philadelphia defeated Green Bay 10-9 when the Packers' Ryan Longwell missed a 28-yard field-goal try with 11 seconds to go. The Eagles had taken the lead with 1:56 left on Ty Detmer's 2-yard touchdown pass to Freddie Solomon on fourth down.

It was a stunning defeat for the Super Bowl XXXI champions, some of whom had talked openly about an undefeated season.

"This is an early wake-up call for us," Packers coach Mike Holmgren said.

Stocked With Options

Drew Bledsoe threw 4 touchdown passes for the second consecutive week to lead New England to a 31-6 rout of the Colts.

Eight different players had caught Bledsoe's scoring passes.

Rison Shines

Andre Rison's 33-yard touchdown catch with three seconds remaining gave the Chiefs a dramatic 28-27 victory over the Raiders on Monday night. It was another storybook ending in the bitter rivalry between the clubs.

Rison caught 8 passes for 162 yards for Kansas City, which drove 80 yards without a time out in the final 55 seconds. The Chiefs' Elvis Grbac passed for 312 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Back on the Bus

After rushing for only 85 yards while being beaten by the Cowboys in week 1, Pittsburgh turned to its ground game to defeat the Redskins 14-13 in week 2.

Arizona edged Dallas.

JAMES D. SMITH

Jerome Bettis accounted for 134 of the Steelers' 222 rushing yards and scored the decisive touchdown on a 1-yard run early in the fourth quarter.

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 23, Cincinnati 10
Buffalo 28, **N.Y. Jets** 22
Denver 35, **Seattle** 14
Kansas City 28, **Oakland** 27
Miami 16, Tennessee 13 (OT)
New England 31, **Indianapolis** 6

NFC
Arizona 25, Dallas 22 (OT)
Carolina 9, **Atlanta** 6
Minnesota 27, **Chicago** 24
Philadelphia 10, Green Bay 9
San Francisco 15, **St. Louis** 12
Tampa Bay 24, **Detroit** 17

INTERCONFERENCE
Jacksonville 40, N.Y. Giants 13
Pittsburgh 14, Washington 13
San Diego 20, **New Orleans** 6
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The demise of Dan Marino appears to have been greatly exaggerated. Dolphins coach Jimmy Johnson considered benching Marino during a subpar performance on opening day, but the NFL's all-time leader in passing yards responded by throwing for 324 yards in Miami's 16-13 overtime victory over the Oilers ...Arizona snapped a 13-game losing streak to division-rival Dallas by beating the Cowboys 25-22 in overtime. The Cardinals rallied from 15 points down in the second half...New England's David Meggett, who broke Tim Brown's NFL record for career punt returns in week 1, surpassed Billy (White Shoes) Johnson as the all-time leader for career punt-return yards during the Patriots' victory over the Colts ...After two weeks, Tampa Bay and Minnesota were the only unbeaten teams in the NFC. All five teams in the NFC East were 1-1.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	2	0	0
New England	2	0	0
Buffalo	1	1	0
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0
Indianapolis	0	2	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	2	0	0
Baltimore	1	1	0
Cincinnati	1	1	0
Pittsburgh	1	1	0
Tennessee	1	1	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	2	0	0
Kansas City	1	1	0
San Diego	1	1	0
Oakland	0	2	0
Seattle	0	2	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Arizona	1	1	0
Dallas	1	1	0
N.Y. Giants	1	1	0
Philadelphia	1	1	0
Washington	1	1	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Minnesota	2	0	0
Tampa Bay	2	0	0
Detroit	1	1	0
Green Bay	1	1	0
Chicago	0	2	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Carolina	1	1	0
St. Louis	1	1	0
San Francisco	1	1	0
Atlanta	0	2	0
New Orleans	0	2	0

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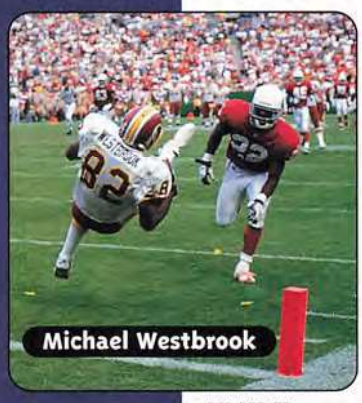
AROUND THE LEAGUE

Detroit's Barry Sanders exploded for 161 yards on 19 carries to key a 32-7 rout of the winless Bears... Green Bay's 23-18 victory over Miami was the Packers' first over the Dolphins. Miami had won each of the eight prior games dating to 1971 ...Seattle routed Indianapolis 31-3. The winless Colts still had not scored an offensive touchdown this season...San Francisco so thoroughly dominated New Orleans in a 33-7 victory that every one of the game's first 21 minutes were played in Saints' territory ...Matt Stover's 37-yard field goal with 34 seconds left gave Baltimore a 24-23 victory over the Giants at Giants Stadium. It was the first road victory in the Ravens' brief history.



Michael Westbrook

BOB ROSATO

Tampa Bay Watch

Three weeks into the season, Tampa Bay stood as the lone unbeaten team in the NFC.

The Buccaneers, who have had 14 consecutive losing seasons, took over first place in the NFC Central Division by beating Minnesota 28-14 in Minneapolis. Trent Dilfer threw 2 touchdown passes, rookie Warrick Dunn ran for a 52-yard touchdown, and the Buccaneers' defense kept the Vikings out of the end zone until the final minute of the game.

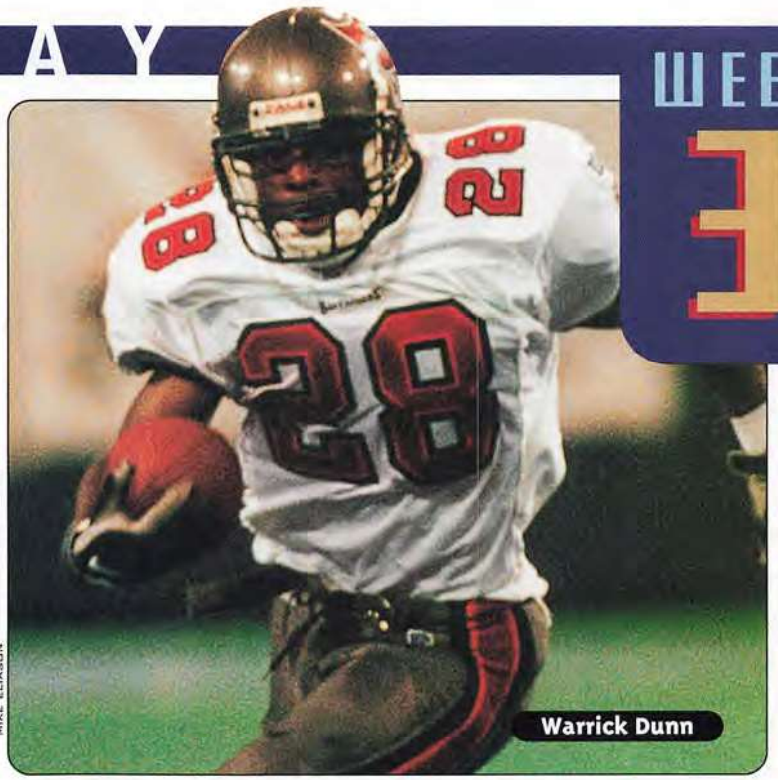
"There's been a total team improvement in Tampa," Minnesota tackle Korey Stringer said afterwards. "They seem to be putting everything together."

Close Calls

In three weeks the season already had produced five overtime games, and 14 games had been decided by 3 points or fewer.

No team had to endure as many nail biters as the Cardinals, who lost their opener in the final seconds at Cincinnati, then tied Dallas with 1:06 left in regulation before winning in overtime in week 2. This week, Arizona sent its game against Washington into overtime on Kevin Butler's 47-yard field goal with two seconds left.

The Cardinals lost 19-13 just 1:36 into overtime when the Redskins' Michael Westbrook made a brilliant 40-yard touchdown catch to end the inaugural game at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium.



Warrick Dunn

MIKE ELIASON

Thrilling Episodes in Prime Time

On Sunday night, former Patriots coach Bill Parcells returned to New England for the first time as coach of the Jets, but dropped a 27-24 decision in overtime. New York tied the game with 31 seconds left in the fourth quarter on Neil O'Donnell's 24-yard touchdown pass to Keyshawn Johnson. But Adam Vinatieri's 34-yard field goal 8:03 into overtime won it for the Patriots.

On Monday night, Dallas got a 14-yard touchdown pass from Troy Aikman to Anthony Miller with 51 seconds left to beat the Eagles 21-20. Still, Philadelphia had a chance to win the game, driving to the Cowboys' 4-yard line with four seconds to go. But a fumbled snap by holder Tom Hutton thwarted Chris Boniol's field-goal try.

SCORES

AFC
Kansas City 22, Buffalo 16
New England 27, N.Y. Jets 24 (OT)
Seattle 31, **Indianapolis** 3

NFC
Dallas 21, Philadelphia 20
Detroit 32, **Chicago** 7
San Francisco 33, New Orleans 7
Tampa Bay 28, **Minnesota** 14
Washington 19, Arizona 13 (OT)

INTERCONFERENCE
Baltimore 24, **N.Y. Giants** 23
Carolina 26, **San Diego** 7
Denver 35, St. Louis 14
Green Bay 23, Miami 18
Oakland 36, **Atlanta** 31
(Home teams in bold)

Still Armed and Dangerous

Denver raised its record to 3-0 by routing the Rams 35-14 behind 4 touchdown passes by John Elway.

The veteran quarterback had offseason shoulder surgery and was playing with a torn biceps tendon suffered during the preseason. But he seemed to be having no ill effects: Through three weeks, Elway had passed for 690 yards and 6 touchdowns.

national football league standings

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	3	0	0
Miami	2	1	0
Buffalo	1	2	0
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0
Indianapolis	0	3	0

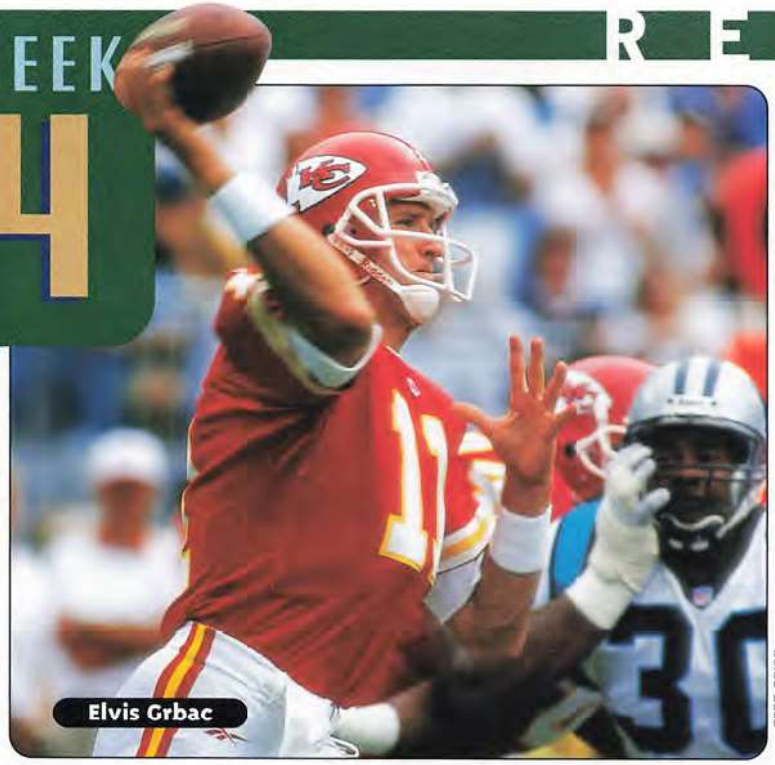
AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	2	0	0
Baltimore	2	1	0
Cincinnati	1	1	0
Pittsburgh	1	1	0
Tennessee	1	1	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	3	0	0
Kansas City	2	1	0
Oakland	1	2	0
San Diego	1	2	0
Seattle	1	2	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	2	1	0
Washington	2	1	0
Arizona	1	2	0
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0
Philadelphia	1	2	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	3	0	0
Detroit	2	1	0
Green Bay	2	1	0
Minnesota	2	1	0
Chicago	0	3	0

NFC West	W	L	T
Carolina	2	1	0
San Francisco	2	1	0
St. Louis	1	2	0
Atlanta	0	3	0
New Orleans	0	3	0


Elvis Grbac

GREG CRISP

All Shook Up

Elvis Grbac and the Chiefs continued their surprising run and handed the Panthers a 35-14 defeat at Ericsson Stadium.

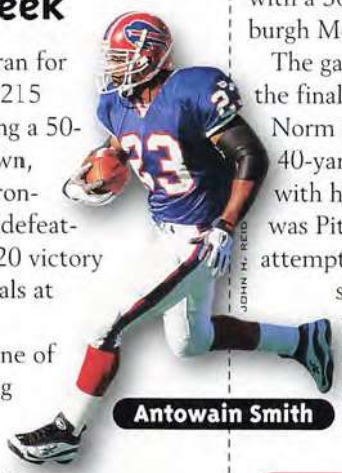
Grbac passed for 3 touchdowns, and Kansas City led by as many as 28 points early in the fourth quarter en route to its third consecutive victory.

Carolina dropped its second consecutive home game after compiling a 9-0 record (including a playoff victory) at its new stadium last season, when the Panthers advanced to the NFC Championship Game.

Florida Coast

Undefeated Tampa Bay played host to Miami and had an easy time, cruising past their in-state rivals 31-21. Trent Dilfer threw 4 touchdown passes, including 2 in the first half to fullback Mike Alstott, as the Buccaneers built a 14-0 lead and won easily.

Rush Week


Antowain Smith

JOHN H. REID

Terrell Davis ran for a club-record 215 yards, including a 50-yard touchdown, helping the Broncos remain undefeated with a 38-20 victory over the Bengals at Denver.

Davis was one of several running backs who took center stage in week 4:

In New Orleans, Mario Bates, who rushed for only 60 yards in the Saints' first three games, had 162 yards and 2 touchdowns in the Saints' 35-17 surprise defeat of the Lions. Bates also threw a 21-yard touchdown pass on a halfback option.

Minnesota's Robert Smith (132 yards), Buffalo's Antowain Smith (129 yards), and Oakland's Napoleon Kaufman (126 yards) all had big days.

Rally Time

Rookie Antowain Smith's 3 touchdowns helped the Bills turn a 26-0 second-quarter deficit into a 37-35 victory over the winless Colts at Rich Stadium.

It was the second-greatest regular-season comeback in NFL history (San Francisco rallied from 28 points down to beat New Orleans in 1980). The all-time comeback for any game also came at Rich Stadium, when Buffalo erased a 32-point deficit to beat the Houston Oilers in a wild-card playoff game after the 1992 season.

Snap Judgment

Jacksonville improved to 3-0 with a 30-21 victory over Pittsburgh Monday night.

The game wasn't decided until the final play, when the Steelers' Norm Johnson lined up for a 40-yard field-goal attempt with his team trailing 23-21 (it was Pittsburgh's first field-goal attempt of the season). But the snap was poor, the kick was blocked, and Chris Hudson returned it 58 yards for a touchdown as time expired.

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 36, **Tennessee** 10
Buffalo 37, Indianapolis 35
Denver 38, Cincinnati 20
Jacksonville 30, Pittsburgh 21
N.Y. Jets 23, Oakland 22
Seattle 26, San Diego 22

NFC
Green Bay 38, Minnesota 32
New Orleans 35, Detroit 17
St. Louis 13, N.Y. Giants 3
San Francisco 34, Atlanta 7

INTERCONFERENCE
Kansas City 35, **Carolina** 14
New England 31, Chicago 3
Tampa Bay 31, Miami 21
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Barry Sanders became the sixth player in NFL history to surpass the 12,000-yard rushing mark for his career in the Lions' loss to the Saints...The Jets rallied from a 12-point halftime deficit to a 23-22 victory over the Raiders. New York improved to 2-2 and snapped a 13-game home losing streak, one short of the league record. The Raiders fell to 1-3, with the losses coming by a total of 5 points...Quarterbacks Drew Bledsoe and Rick Mirer, the top two picks in the 1993 draft, met in New England. Bledsoe's Patriots remained undefeated by handling Mirer's Bears 31-3. Chicago fell to 0-4...The 49ers won their third consecutive game, beating the Falcons 34-7. San Francisco's defense allowed only 13, 12, 7, and 7 points in the season's first four weeks...Brett Favre surpassed Bart Starr as the Packers' career leader for touchdown passes. Green Bay needed all 5 of Favre's touchdown passes to hold off Minnesota 38-32.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	4	0	0
Buffalo	2	2	0
Miami	2	2	0
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0
Indianapolis	0	4	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	3	0	0
Baltimore	3	1	0
Cincinnati	1	2	0
Pittsburgh	1	2	0
Tennessee	1	2	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	4	0	0
Kansas City	3	1	0
Seattle	2	2	0
Oakland	1	3	0
San Diego	1	3	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	2	1	0
Washington	2	1	0
Arizona	1	2	0
Philadelphia	1	2	0
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	4	0	0
Green Bay	3	1	0
Detroit	2	2	0
Minnesota	2	2	0
Chicago	0	4	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	3	1	0
Carolina	2	2	0
St. Louis	2	2	0
New Orleans	1	3	0
Atlanta	0	4	0

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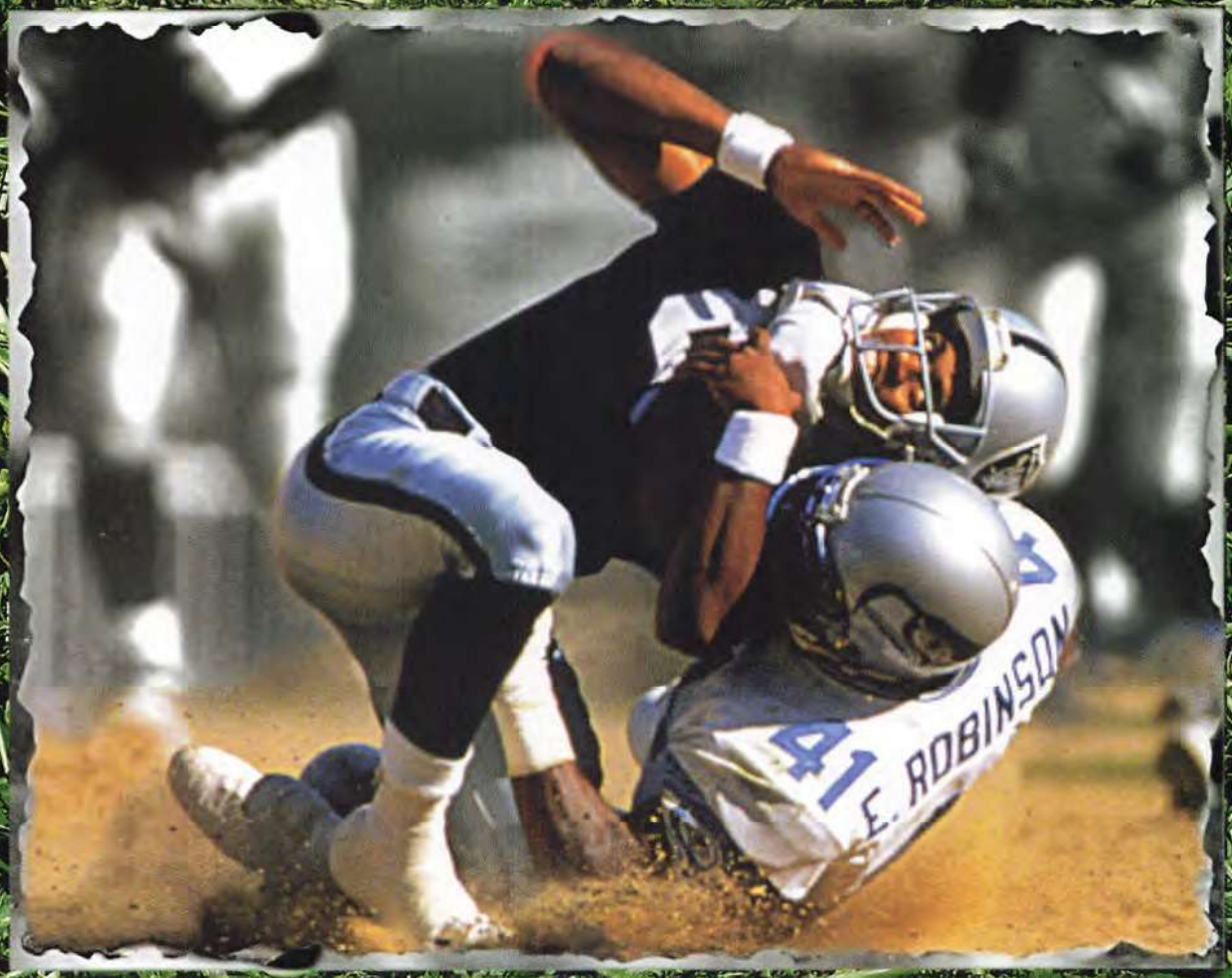

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PLAY FOOTBALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Barry Sanders rushed for 139 yards and moved into fifth place on the NFL's all-time rushing list in the Lions' 26-15 upset of the Packers. The defending Super Bowl champions fell into a three-way tie for second place in the NFC Central, two games behind Tampa Bay...Adrian Murrell tied a club record with 40 carries and gained 156 yards as the Jets beat Cincinnati 31-14. The Jets won back-to-back games for the first time since October, 1994...Quarterback Kordell Stewart ran for 2 touchdowns and passed for 1 as the Steelers blasted Tennessee 37-24...Venerable Marcus Allen had touchdown runs of 8 and 1 yards in the Chiefs' fourth consecutive victory, a 20-17 overtime defeat of Seattle...Perhaps more notable than who scored in Dallas's 27-3 rout of winless Chicago was who didn't: Emmitt Smith still was without a touchdown this season after failing to score for the fourth consecutive game.

Raiders of the Lost Art

Jeff George threw 4 touchdown passes to power the Raiders to a 35-17 victory over the Rams in Oakland.

While much of the NFL has turned to the West Coast offense and its short passes, the Raiders have returned to their once-powerful vertical passing game. Through five weeks, George—who wears uniform number 3, the same worn by former Raiders quarterback Daryle (The Mad Bomber) Lamonica—had thrown an NFL-best 13 touchdown passes and was averaging nearly 9 yards per attempt. His touchdown passes averaged 28 yards.

Against the Rams, George's passing was complemented by the running of Napoleon Kaufman, who gained 162 yards.

Capital D

Washington beat visiting Jacksonville 24-12, handing the Jaguars their first regular-season defeat since last November 17.

Jacksonville entered the game averaging 376 total yards and nearly 33 points per game. But the Redskins limited the Jaguars to only 204 total yards and 4 field goals by Mike Hollis. Cornerbacks Darrell Green and Cris Dishman played key roles in limiting Jacksonville quarterback Mark Brunell to only 153 passing yards.

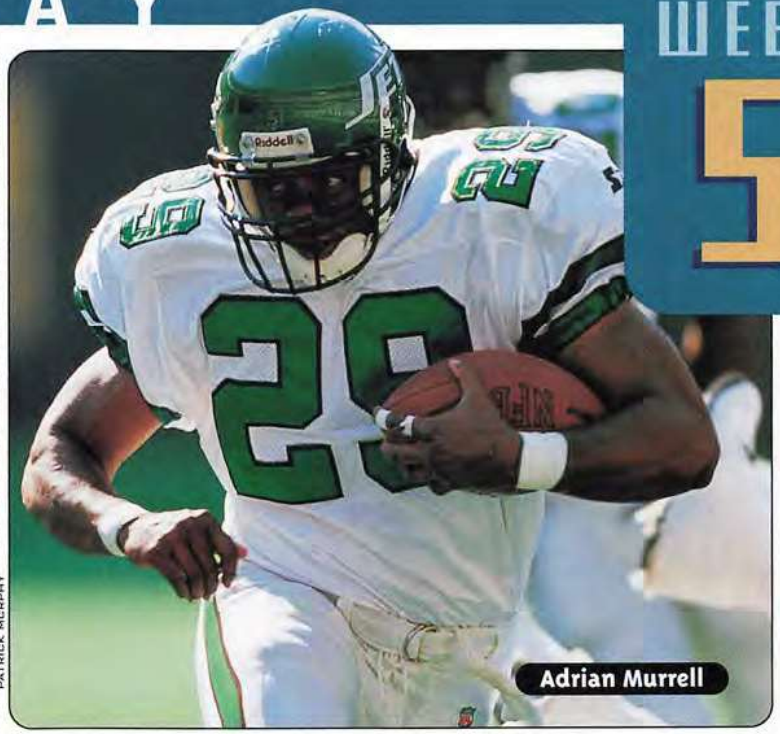
Gus Frerotte threw 3 touchdown passes, and Terry Allen rushed for 122 yards to provide most of the Redskins' offense.

SCORES

AFC
Kansas City 20, Seattle 17 (OT)
N.Y. Jets 31, **Cincinnati** 14
Pittsburgh 37, Tennessee 24
San Diego 21, Baltimore 17

NFC
Dallas 27, Chicago 3
Detroit 26, Green Bay 15
Minnesota 28, Philadelphia 19
N.Y. Giants 14, New Orleans 9
San Francisco 34, **Carolina** 21
Tampa Bay 19, Arizona 18

INTERCONFERENCE
Denver 29, **Atlanta** 21
Oakland 35, St. Louis 17
Washington 24, Jacksonville 12
(Home teams in bold)



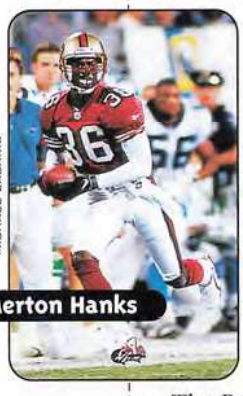
PATRICK MURPHY

Adrian Murrell

Western Conquest

Garrison Hearst ran for a career-high 141 yards and Merton Hanks intercepted a pair of passes in the 49ers' 34-21 victory over Carolina on Monday night.

In the middle of seven consecutive games against division foes, San Francisco completed its first round of games against the NFC West 4-0.



MICHAEL ZAGARIS

Merton Hanks

Perfect 10

Unbeaten Denver and Tampa Bay each won its fifth game of 1997 by holding off underdog opponents.

The Broncos scored four plays into the game and built a 23-0 lead over the winless Falcons late in the second quarter. But Atlanta, coached by former Denver coach Dan Reeves, rallied to close within 29-21 early in the fourth quarter before running out of steam.

The Buccaneers jumped to a 12-0 lead over Arizona, fell behind 18-12, then regained the lead 19-18 on Trent Dilfer's fourth-down, 31-yard touchdown pass to Karl Williams with 4:48 left to play. The Cardinals still had a chance to win after marching into field-goal range, but Kevin Butler's 47-yard attempt on the last play was wide right.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	4	0	0
N.Y. Jets	3	2	0
Buffalo	2	2	0
Miami	2	2	0
Indianapolis	0	4	0

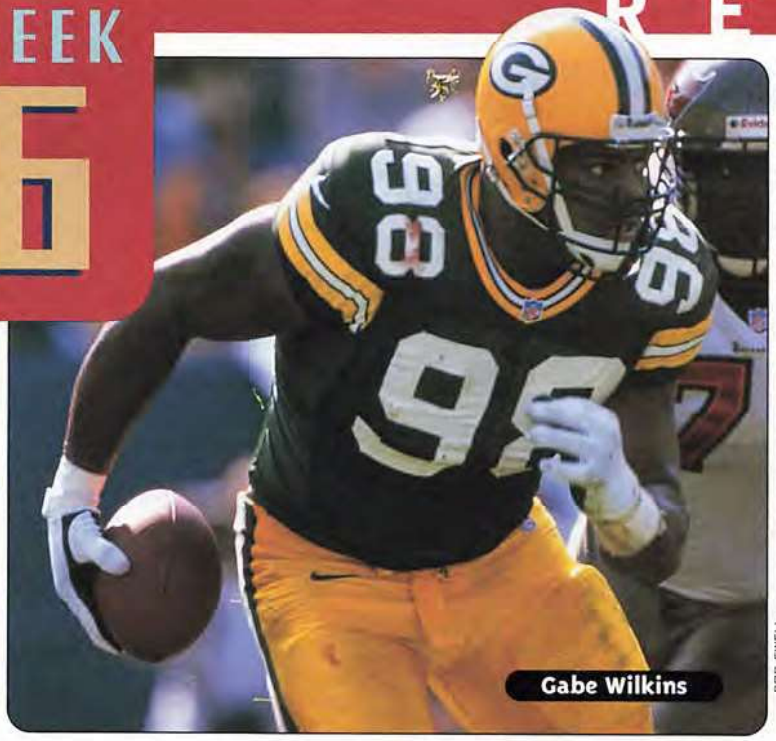
AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	3	1	0
Baltimore	3	2	0
Pittsburgh	2	2	0
Cincinnati	1	3	0
Tennessee	1	3	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	5	0	0
Kansas City	4	1	0
Oakland	2	3	0
San Diego	2	3	0
Seattle	2	3	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	3	1	0
Washington	3	1	0
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0
Arizona	1	3	0
Philadelphia	1	3	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	5	0	0
Detroit	3	2	0
Green Bay	3	2	0
Minnesota	3	2	0
Chicago	0	5	0

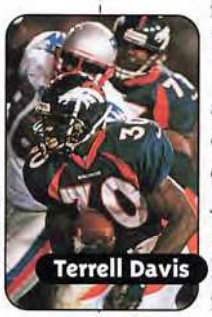
NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	4	1	0
Carolina	2	3	0
St. Louis	2	3	0
New Orleans	1	4	0
Atlanta	0	5	0



Buccaneers Stopped at Five

Green Bay scored 3 touchdowns in the second quarter, then held on to defeat Tampa Bay 21-16, halting the Buccaneers' five-game winning streak.

The defending Super Bowl champions, who had to win to avoid dropping three games behind the NFC Central leaders, got a big lift when 305-pound defensive end Gabe Wilkins intercepted Trent Dilfer's pass and rumbled 77 yards for a touchdown midway through the second quarter. Brett Favre also threw 2 touchdown passes to Antonio Freeman as the Packers built a 21-3 halftime lead.



Warrick Dunn's 2-yard touchdown run with 10:11 left in the game pulled the Buccaneers within five points, but a two-point conversion attempt failed, and Tampa Bay could get no closer than Green Bay's 42-yard line on its final two possessions.

And Then There Was One

After Tampa Bay lost to Green Bay on Sunday, the NFL's two remaining unbeaten teams, Denver and New England, squared off on Monday night in Colorado. Terrell Davis rushed for 171 yards and 2 touchdowns, and the Broncos broke open a close game in the second half to win 34-13.

Denver led only 14-13 at intermission, but dominated the third quarter. Quarterback John Elway scored on a 1-yard keeper, Scott Bentley kicked a 21-yard field goal, and Davis ran 1 yard for a touchdown on the Broncos' three possessions of the period.

Slashback

Kordell Stewart accounted for 5 touchdowns to rally the Steelers to a 42-34 victory at Baltimore.

For the second consecutive week, Stewart exhibited the game-breaking ability that won him the starting role this year.

He threw 3 interceptions in the first half as Baltimore built a 21-0 lead. But he rebounded to throw 3 touchdown passes and run for 2 scores, including a 74-yard touchdown with 1:47 to play.

Da Coach, Da City

First-year New Orleans coach Mike Ditka took his team to Chicago, where the Saints beat the Bears 20-17.

It was Ditka's first sideline appearance in Chicago since he ended an 11-year stint as the Bears' coach in 1992. But the Pro Football Hall of Fame tight end (he also played for the Bears from 1961-66) still has close ties to the Windy City, and the New Orleans victory was an emotional one.

"This is a great city," Ditka said. "There's no better city in the world. There are no better fans."

SCORES

AFC
Denver 34, New England 13
Jacksonville 21, Cincinnati 13
Miami 17, Kansas City 14
N.Y. Jets 16, **Indianapolis** 12
Pittsburgh 42, **Baltimore** 34
San Diego 25, **Oakland** 10
Seattle 16, Tennessee 13

NFC
Green Bay 21, Tampa Bay 16
Minnesota 20, **Arizona** 19
New Orleans 20, **Chicago** 17
N.Y. Giants 20, Dallas 17
Philadelphia 24, Washington 10

INTERCONFERENCE
Buffalo 22, Detroit 13
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The NFC East standings tightened when the Giants upset the Cowboys 20-17 and the Eagles beat the Redskins 24-10. That left those four teams bunched within one game...The fifth team in that division, Arizona, continued its string of agonizing defeats with a 20-19 loss to Minnesota. The Vikings erased a nine-point deficit in the final 4:05, winning on Eddie Murray's 38-yard field goal with 10 seconds left...Running was the name of the game in the AFC West: In addition to Terrell Davis's 171 yards against the Patriots, Gary Brown rushed for 181 yards in the Chargers' victory over the Raiders, and Steve Broussard gained 138 yards on only 6 carries in the Seahawks' win over Tennessee. Broussard had 77- and 43-yard touchdown runs... Kansas City entered its game against the Dolphins riding a four-game winning streak, but having lost its last five games in Miami. The former streak ended and the latter string continued when the Dolphins won 17-14.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	4	1	0
N.Y. Jets	4	2	0
Buffalo	3	2	0
Miami	3	2	0
Indianapolis	0	5	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	4	1	0
Pittsburgh	3	2	0
Baltimore	3	3	0
Cincinnati	1	4	0
Tennessee	1	4	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	6	0	0
Kansas City	4	2	0
San Diego	3	3	0
Seattle	3	3	0
Oakland	2	4	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	3	2	0
Washington	3	2	0
N.Y. Giants	3	3	0
Philadelphia	2	3	0
Arizona	1	4	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Tampa Bay	5	1	0
Green Bay	4	2	0
Minnesota	4	2	0
Detroit	3	3	0
Chicago	0	6	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	4	1	0
Carolina	2	3	0
St. Louis	2	3	0
New Orleans	2	4	0
Atlanta	0	5	0

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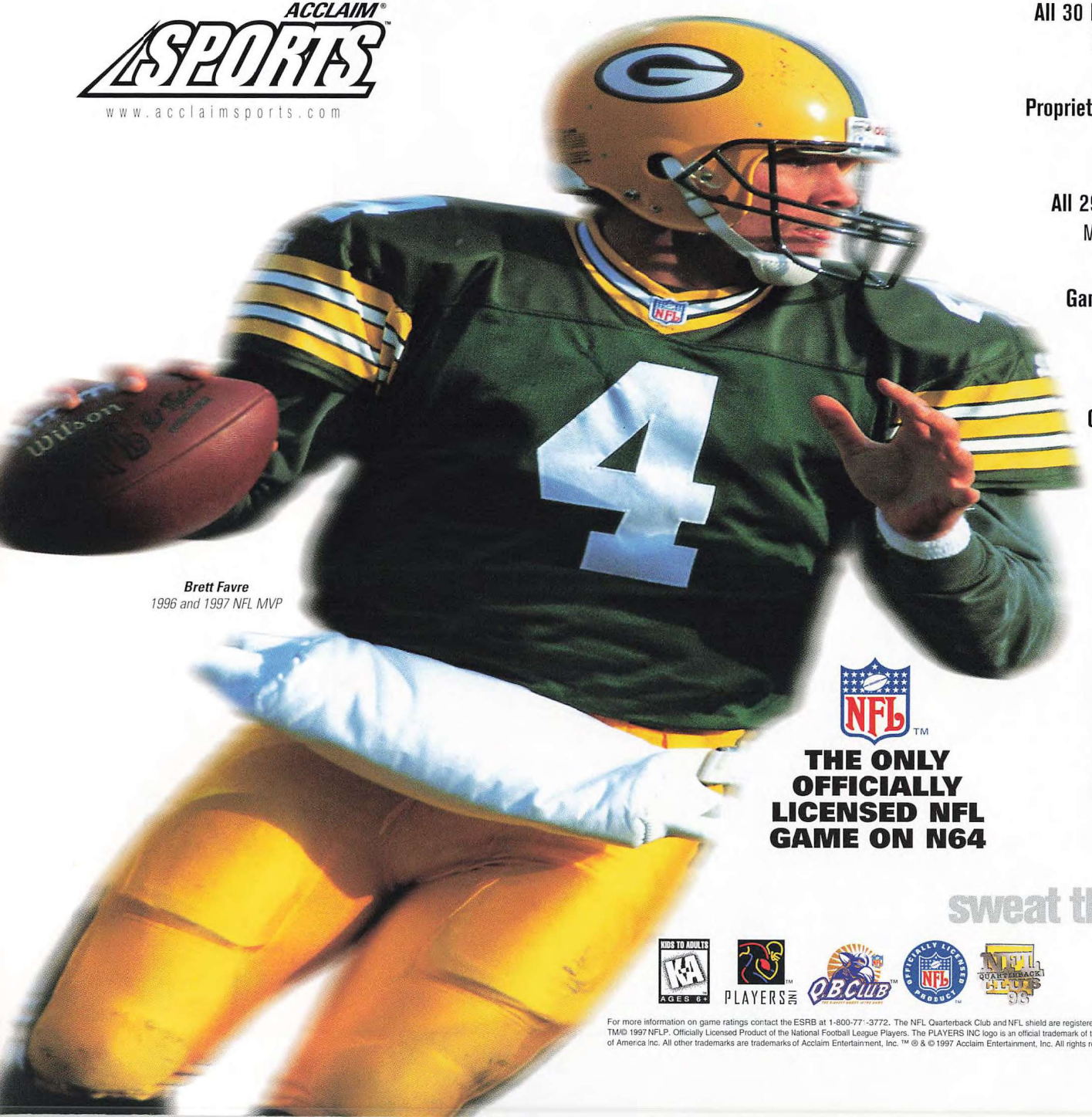

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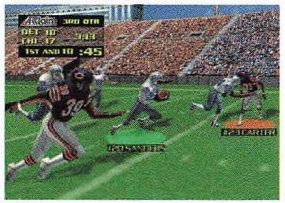

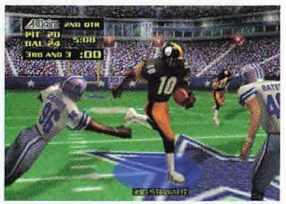

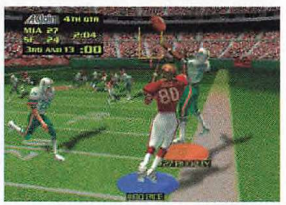

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

Green Bay hung on to beat Chicago 24-23 when the Bears failed on a two-point conversion pass with 1:54 left in the game...San Francisco's 30-10 rout of St. Louis was the 49ers' fifteenth consecutive victory over the Rams...Dan Marino, who has passed for more yards (7,141 entering this season) and more touchdowns (64) against the Jets than any other team, shredded New York for 372 yards and 2 touchdowns in the Dolphins' 31-20 victory...Eddie Murray set an NFL record for consecutive extra points in the Vikings' victory over the Panthers, kicking 3 to increase his string to 237 (the 49ers' Tommy Davis held the old mark with 234). Murray, 41, has not missed a conversion since 1988...Dan Reeves got his first victory as Atlanta's coach when the Falcons beat the Saints 23-17. Atlanta amassed a club-record 10 sacks, 5 of them by defensive end Chuck Smith.

GLENN JAMES

Lion King

Barry Sanders shredded Tampa Bay's defense for touchdown runs of 80 and 82 yards as the Lions handed the Buccaneers their second consecutive defeat, 27-9.

Sanders, who also caught a 7-yard touchdown pass, gained 215 yards on 24 carries against a defense that had allowed only 63 rushing yards per game over the first six weeks of the season. Sanders had only 20 yards the first time the teams played this season, a game Tampa Bay won 24-17.

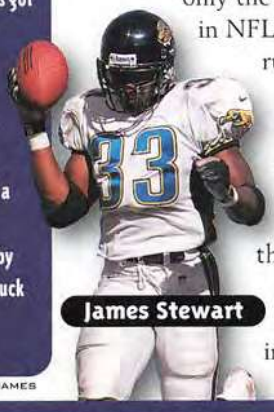
The veteran moved past Jim Brown and into fourth place on the NFL's career rushing list. Sanders was at 12,513 yards by game's end.

Top Cat

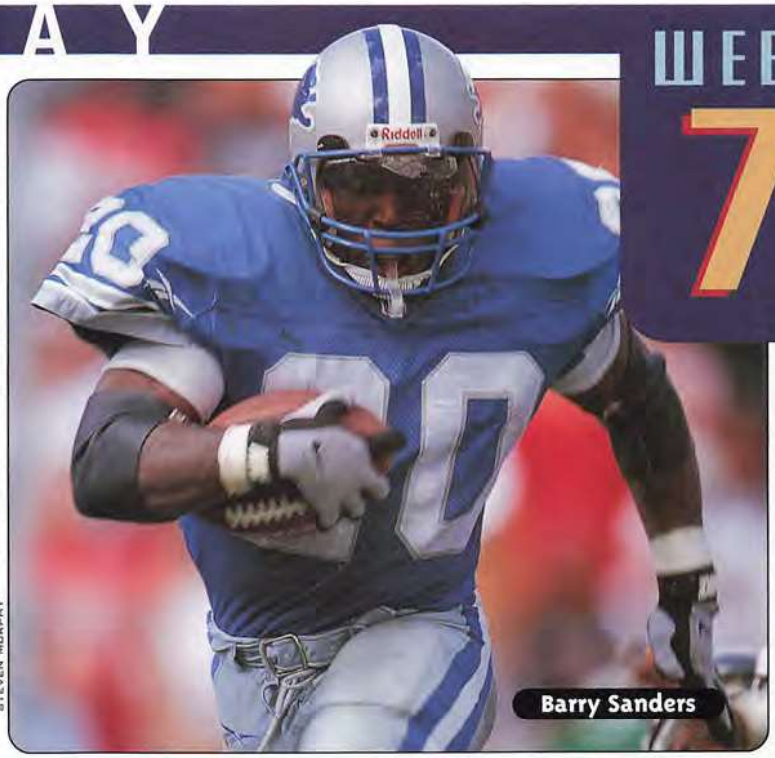
Jacksonville's James Stewart rushed for 5 touchdowns in the Jaguars' 38-21 rout of the Eagles.

Stewart, who played extensively because starting running back Natrone Means was injured early in the game, capped his team's first three possessions with touchdown runs of 7, 8, and 2 yards. He added 1-yard touchdown runs late in the third quarter and early in the fourth.

The third-year back became only the fourth player in NFL history to rush for 5 or more touchdowns in a game. Legendary Ernie Nevers holds the record with 6 for the Chicago Cardinals in 1929.



James Stewart



STEVEN MURPHY

Barry Sanders

Johnson and Johnson

In Minnesota's 21-14 victory over Carolina, the Vikings' Brad Johnson became the first NFL player to throw a touchdown pass to himself.

Early in the fourth quarter, with the score tied 7-7, Johnson's pass from the Panthers' 3-yard line was batted at the line of scrimmage. He caught it on the rebound, and dodged defenders on his way into the end zone.

SCORES

AFC
Miami 31, N.Y. Jets 20
New England 33, Buffalo 6
Pittsburgh 24, Indianapolis 22
Tennessee 30, Cincinnati 7

NFC
Atlanta 23, **New Orleans** 17
Detroit 27, **Tampa Bay** 9
Green Bay 24, **Chicago** 23
Minnesota 21, Carolina 14
N.Y. Giants 27, **Arizona** 13
San Francisco 30, St. Louis 10
Washington 21, Dallas 16

INTERCONFERENCE
Jacksonville 38, Philadelphia 21
(Home teams in bold)

Even Cowboys Get the Blues

Washington took over first place in the NFC East with a 21-16 victory over Dallas.

Stephen Davis replaced injured Terry Allen early in the game and rushed for 94 yards and 2 touchdowns for the Redskins, who forged a 21-3 lead in the third quarter and held on to win. It was Washington's third victory without a defeat at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium.

The Cowboys continued to be their own worst enemy. After managing only 4 touchdowns on 19 trips inside their opponents' 20-yard line in the last six games, they drove 79 yards to Washington's 2-yard line on their first possession of this game and settled for a field goal.

The loss dropped Dallas to 3-3. "I'm not going to say [we're] worried," cornerback Deion Sanders said. "I'm going to say concerned."

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	5	1	0
Miami	4	2	0
N.Y. Jets	4	3	0
Buffalo	3	3	0
Indianapolis	0	6	0

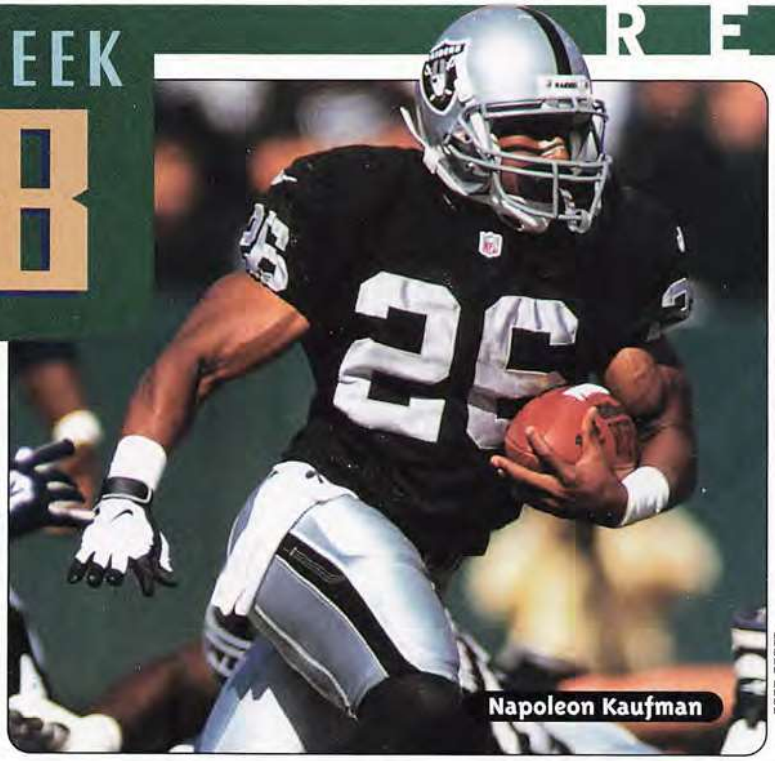
AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	5	1	0
Pittsburgh	4	2	0
Baltimore	3	3	0
Tennessee	2	4	0
Cincinnati	1	5	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	6	0	0
Kansas City	4	2	0
San Diego	3	3	0
Seattle	3	3	0
Oakland	2	4	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Washington	4	2	0
N.Y. Giants	4	3	0
Dallas	3	3	0
Philadelphia	2	4	0
Arizona	1	5	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	5	2	0
Minnesota	5	2	0
Tampa Bay	5	2	0
Detroit	4	3	0
Chicago	0	7	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	5	1	0
Carolina	2	4	0
St. Louis	2	4	0
New Orleans	2	5	0
Atlanta	1	5	0


Napoleon Kaufman
GREG TROTT

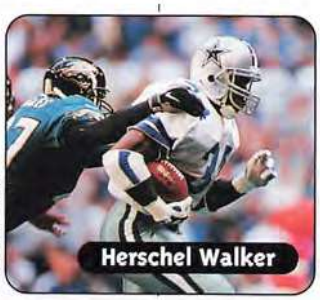
Broncos Busters

Napoleon Kaufman rushed for a club-record 227 yards in Oakland's 28-25 victory over Denver, the Broncos' first loss of the season. There were no unbeaten teams left in the league.

Kaufman ran 57 yards on the first play from scrimmage and had an 83-yard touchdown run midway through the fourth quarter. In between, quarterback Jeff George threw touchdown passes to James Jett and Rickey Dudley, and safety Eric Turner returned a fumble 65 yards for a touchdown.

Fassel Fueled

Danny Kanell's 68-yard touchdown pass to Chris Calloway on the third play of overtime lifted the Giants to a 26-20 victory over the Lions, vaulting New York into first place in the NFC East.


Herschel Walker
MIKE ELIASON

The Giants won their fourth consecutive game under first-year coach Jim Fassel.

Though New York ranked just twenty-sixth in the NFL in total offense after eight weeks, the Giants were opportunistic. They had a turnover margin of plus-7, and had converted 19 possessions inside their opponents' 20-yard line into 14 touchdowns.

Tuna Surprise

Backup quarterback Glenn Foley came off the bench to pass for 200 yards and a touchdown in the second half, leading the Jets to a 24-19 victory over the Patriots.

New York coach Bill Parcells, who led the Patriots to the Super Bowl last season, inserted Foley in place of struggling starter Neil O'Donnell in the third quarter with New England leading 12-3. "It shocked everybody," Jets cornerback Aaron Glenn said.

Foley completed 14 consecutive passes in one stretch and finished with 17 completions in 23 attempts. His 5-yard touchdown pass to Lorenzo Neal with 10:32 left was the game winner.

Walker, Dallas Cowboy

Veteran fullback Herschel Walker was the star of Dallas's 26-22 victory over Jacksonville.

With Pro Bowl fullback Daryl Johnston sidelined (possibly for the season) by a neck injury and the Cowboys struggling, Walker rescued Dallas's playoff hopes with a dramatic 64-yard catch-and-run for the winning points with 6:27 left.

The Cowboys trailed 22-19 and faced second-and-22 from their 36 when Walker, 35, took a short pass over the middle from Troy Aikman. Would-be tacklers bounced off Walker as he sprinted to the end zone.

Dallas avoided falling below .500 and improved to 4-3.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 9, **Indianapolis** 6
Kansas City 31, San Diego 3
Miami 24, **Baltimore** 13
N.Y. Jets 24, New England 19
Oakland 28, Denver 25
Pittsburgh 26, **Cincinnati** 10

NFC
Carolina 13, **New Orleans** 0
N.Y. Giants 26, **Detroit** 20 (OT)
Philadelphia 13, Arizona 10 (OT)
San Francisco 35, **Atlanta** 28

INTERCONFERENCE
Dallas 26, Jacksonville 22
Seattle 17, **St. Louis** 9
Tennessee 28, Washington 14
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Buffalo beat Indianapolis 9-6 on Monday night, a game in which there were no touchdowns and no turnovers. That occurred only one other time in NFL history, in a 1988 game between New England and Miami...Carolina's 13-0 victory over the Saints marked the first time since 1983 that New Orleans was shut out...Tennessee had not recorded an interception all season, but the Oilers picked off 3 of Gus Frerotte's passes in a 28-14 victory over the Redskins in Memphis...Karim Abdul-Jabbar rushed for 3 touchdowns in Miami's 24-13 win at Baltimore. The Dolphins moved into a tie with the Patriots for first place in the AFC East...This week's Arizona hard-luck update: The Eagles beat the Cardinals on Chris Boniol's 24-yard field goal 4:02 into overtime. Boniol had tied the game with a 38-yard kick in the final minute of regulation. Arizona lost for the third time on its opponent's last play and for the fifth time in the fourth quarter or overtime.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	5	2	0
New England	5	2	0
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0
Buffalo	4	3	0
Indianapolis	0	7	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	5	2	0
Pittsburgh	5	2	0
Baltimore	3	4	0
Tennessee	3	4	0
Cincinnati	1	6	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	6	1	0
Kansas City	5	2	0
Seattle	4	3	0
Oakland	3	4	0
San Diego	3	4	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	5	3	0
Dallas	4	3	0
Washington	4	3	0
Philadelphia	3	4	0
Arizona	1	6	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	5	2	0
Minnesota	5	2	0
Tampa Bay	5	2	0
Detroit	4	4	0
Chicago	0	7	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	6	1	0
Carolina	3	4	0
St. Louis	2	5	0
New Orleans	2	6	0
Atlanta	1	6	0

Original photo by Kirk Schlea

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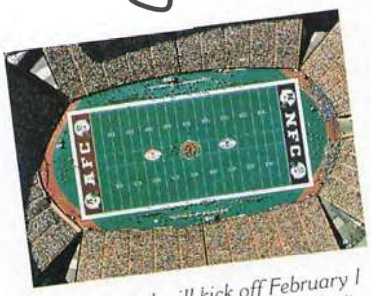

The Pro Bowl will kick off February 1 on the island of O'ahu at Aloha Stadium.

Top players in Super Bowl XXXII will be heading to the Pro Bowl in Hawai'i next week. You're invited, too, and before or after the game there are six points *you* should make.

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

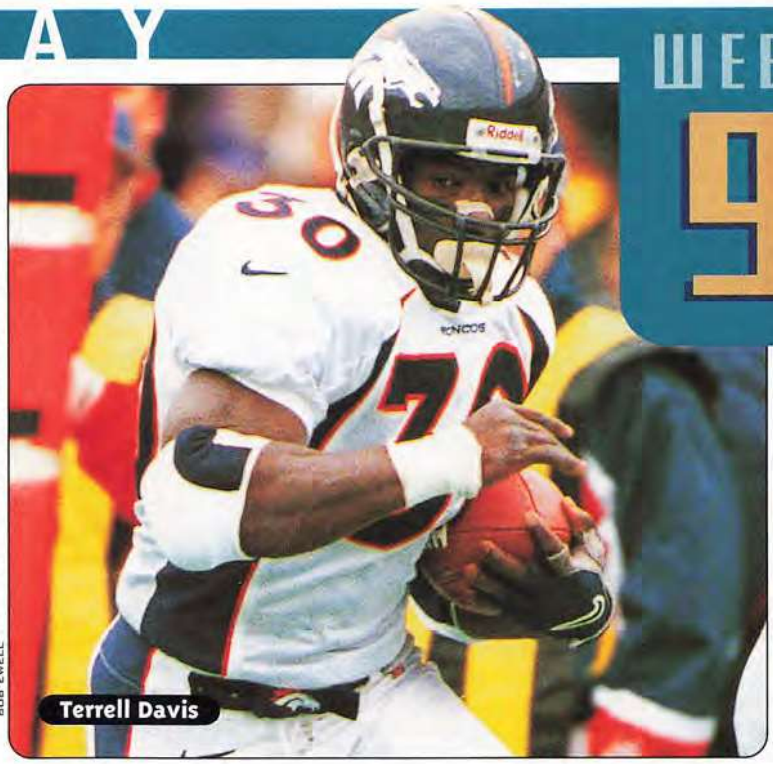
In Philadelphia, Rodney Peete's 8-yard touchdown pass to tight end Chad Lewis with 45 seconds left lifted the Eagles to a 13-12 victory over the Cowboys. Meanwhile, Bam Morris rushed for 176 yards and a touchdown as the Ravens handed the Redskins their first defeat in Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, 20-17. That left Philadelphia, Washington, and Dallas all at 4-4, a game-and-a-half behind the NFC East-leading Giants, who won their fifth consecutive game by beating the Bengals 29-27...There was a similar logjam in the AFC East, where the top four teams were bunched within one game...San Francisco shut out New Orleans 23-0. It was the second successive week that the Saints, who had gone 14 years between shutouts, failed to score a point... Chicago's game at Miami was moved to Monday night because of a conflict with Game 7 of baseball's World Series. The Bears won 36-33 in overtime, ending their losing streak at seven games.

Neither Rain, Nor Snow, Nor Sleet, Nor Bills

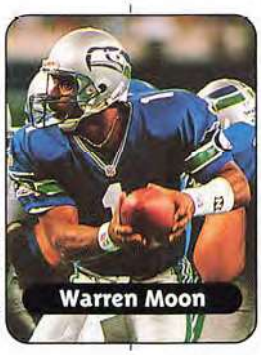
Terrell Davis ran for 207 yards and Jason Elam kicked 3 field goals, including the game winner in overtime, in Denver's 23-20 victory at Buffalo. It rained and hailed during the game, but for the Broncos the conditions paled in comparison to those back home.

With the Denver area buried under a blizzard that dropped more than two feet of snow, many of the Broncos had trouble reaching the team complex the day they were to leave for Buffalo. A passerby rescued Elam from his stranded vehicle along Interstate 25. Rod Smith and Tony Veland walked the last mile to the complex in snow drifts up to their waists. The team plane did not reach Buffalo until nearly 1 A.M. Sunday.

"It was really unbelievable," Elam said. "It's definitely something I'm not going to forget for a long, long time."


BOB EWELL

Terrell Davis


TAMI TOMSIC

Warren Moon

Good Bye

Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren sensed the Packers were emotionally and physically weary. So he gave his team six days off during its week 8 bye, and the revitalized Packers responded by beating the Patriots 28-10 in the week 9 rematch of Super Bowl XXXI.

Brett Favre threw 3 touchdown passes, including one to running back Dorsey Levens, who also ran for a score.

Moon Struck

Warren Moon passed for 409 yards and 5 touchdowns—including 3 in the second half to Joey Galloway—to rally the Seahawks past the Raiders 45-34. Seattle won for the fifth time in six games.

Moon, who turns 41 in November, began the season as a backup, but took over when starting quarterback John Friesz was injured in the Seahawks' opener.

Grand Central Showdowns

The midpoint of the season provided two head-to-head matchups of teams tied for first place: In the NFC Central, Minnesota traveled to Tampa Bay, and in the AFC Central, Pittsburgh played host to Jacksonville. The Vikings and Steelers prevailed in taut struggles.

Minnesota broke a scoreless tie with 10 points in the third quarter, then made it hold up for a 10-6 victory over the Buccaneers.

Pittsburgh beat the Jaguars 23-17 when Jerome Bettis took a shovel pass from Kordell Stewart and rumbled 17 yards for the winning touchdown 5:47 into overtime.

SCORES

AFC

Denver 23, **Buffalo** 20 (OT)
Pittsburgh 23, Jacksonville 17 (OT)
San Diego 35, Indianapolis 19
Seattle 45, Oakland 34

NFC

Carolina 21, Atlanta 12
Minnesota 10, **Tampa Bay** 6
Philadelphia 13, Dallas 12
San Francisco 23, **New Orleans** 0

INTERCONFERENCE

Baltimore 20, **Washington** 17
Chicago 36, **Miami** 33 (OT)
Green Bay 28, **New England** 10
Kansas City 28, **St. Louis** 20
N.Y. Giants 29, Cincinnati 27
Tennessee 41, **Arizona** 14
(Home teams in bold)

national football league standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	5	3	0
New England	5	3	0
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0
Buffalo	4	4	0
Indianapolis	0	8	0

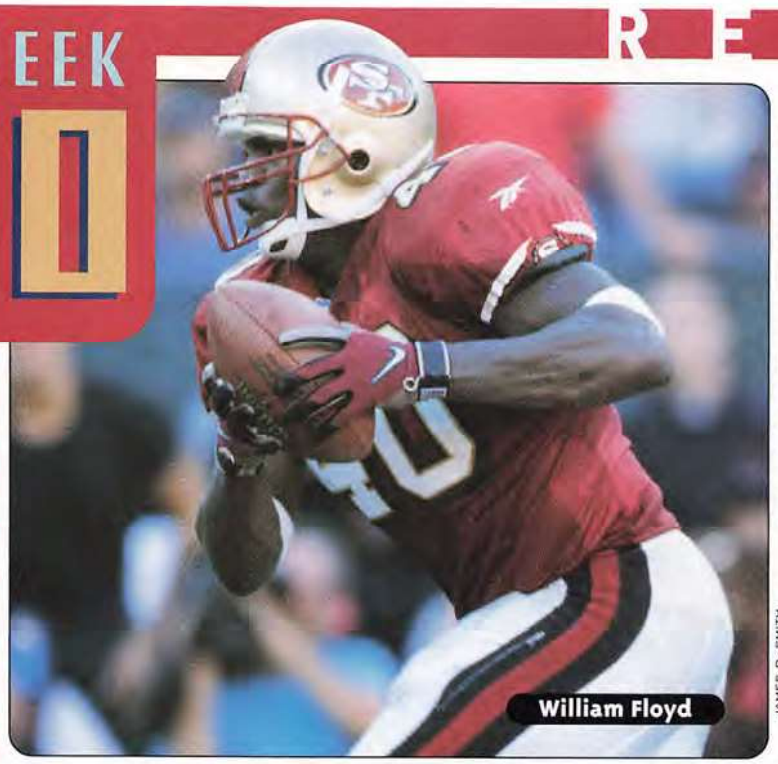
AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	6	2	0
Jacksonville	5	3	0
Baltimore	4	4	0
Tennessee	4	4	0
Cincinnati	1	7	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	7	1	0
Kansas City	6	2	0
Seattle	5	3	0
San Diego	4	4	0
Oakland	3	5	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	6	3	0
Dallas	4	4	0
Philadelphia	4	4	0
Washington	4	4	0
Arizona	1	7	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	6	2	0
Minnesota	6	2	0
Tampa Bay	5	3	0
Detroit	4	4	0
Chicago	1	7	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	7	1	0
Carolina	4	4	0
St. Louis	2	6	0
New Orleans	2	7	0
Atlanta	1	7	0



The Defense Rests

San Francisco, weary of hearing that its seven-game winning streak had come at the expense of below-average division opponents, answered its critics with a 17-10 victory over Dallas.

William Floyd's 1-yard touchdown run with 5:57 left provided the winning points, but it was the 49ers' defense that made the difference. San Francisco shut down the Cowboys after a first-quarter interception led to Dallas's lone touchdown.

Through 10 weeks, the 49ers led the NFL in rushing defense, total defense, and takeaways. San Francisco had allowed an average of 12 points per game.

Hall's Fame

Rookie John Hall's 37-yard field goal 4:58 into overtime gave the Jets a 19-16 victory over the Ravens.

Hall's fourth field goal—the first game-winner of his brief career—spoiled a dramatic rally by Baltimore, which tied the game on Vinny Testaverde's fourth-down, 16-yard touchdown pass to Derrick Alexander with three seconds to go in regulation.

New York's victory, coupled with losses by the Patriots and Dolphins, lifted the Jets into first place in the AFC East for the first time since 1986.

Lane Change

Fred Lane ran 15, 18, and 32 yards for touchdowns to spark the Panthers to their third consecutive victory, a 38-14 decision over the Raiders.

Starting running back Tim Biakabutuka bruised his ribs on the game's opening drive, so Carolina turned to Lane, a rookie free agent who had rushed for a total of 90 yards in the first half of the season. He set a club record against Oakland's porous defense with 147 yards on 28 carries.

Close Calls

Six games were decided by 3 points this week. Five of those games came down to a field goal in the fourth quarter or overtime. Among them: Tampa Bay snapped its three-game losing streak when Michael Husted's 36-yard kick with eight seconds left beat Indianapolis 31-28.

Double Threat

Marcus Allen's legs may be growing weary as his 16-year NFL career winds down, but he showed his arm still has plenty of life in it. The venerable running back threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Danan Hughes to key Kansas City's 13-10 victory over Pittsburgh in Monday night's matchup of 6-2 teams.

The Chiefs trailed 10-6 until Allen led Hughes perfectly in the end zone on a half-back-option pass 1:40 before halftime.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 9, Miami 6
Cincinnati 38, San Diego 31
Denver 30, Seattle 27
Jacksonville 30, **Tennessee** 24
Kansas City 13, Pittsburgh 10
N.Y. Jets 19, Baltimore 16 (OT)

NFC
Arizona 31, Philadelphia 21
Atlanta 34, St. Louis 31
Green Bay 20, Detroit 10
San Francisco 17, Dallas 10
Washington 31, **Chicago** 8

INTERCONFERENCE
Carolina 38, Oakland 14
Minnesota 23, New England 18
Tampa Bay 31, **Indianapolis** 28
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

John Elway passed for 238 yards in Denver's 30-27 victory over Seattle. The veteran quarterback moved past Fran Tarkenton and into second place on the NFL's all-time list with 47,005 career yards passing... Cincinnati snapped its seven-game losing streak with a 38-31 victory over San Diego. The Chargers' Eric Metcalf returned 2 punts for touchdowns, giving him an NFL-record 10 kick-return touchdowns in his career...Green Bay intercepted 4 of Scott Mitchell's passes (Darren Sharper returned one 50 yards for a touchdown) in a 20-10 victory over Detroit...The Vikings kept pace with the Packers atop the NFC Central with a 23-18 victory over the Patriots. Defending AFC-champion New England lost for the fourth time in five games...Ten players rushed for more than 100 yards in week 10. They were led by Atlanta's Jamal Anderson, who had 159 yards in the Falcons' 34-31 victory over the Rams.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	6	3	0
Buffalo	5	4	0
Miami	5	4	0
New England	5	4	0
Indianapolis	0	9	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	6	3	0
Pittsburgh	6	3	0
Baltimore	4	5	0
Tennessee	4	5	0
Cincinnati	2	7	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	8	1	0
Kansas City	7	2	0
Seattle	5	4	0
San Diego	4	5	0
Oakland	3	6	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	6	3	0
Washington	5	4	0
Dallas	4	5	0
Philadelphia	4	5	0
Arizona	2	7	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	7	2	0
Minnesota	7	2	0
Tampa Bay	6	3	0
Detroit	4	5	0
Chicago	1	8	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	8	1	0
Carolina	5	4	0
Atlanta	2	7	0
New Orleans	2	7	0
St. Louis	2	7	0

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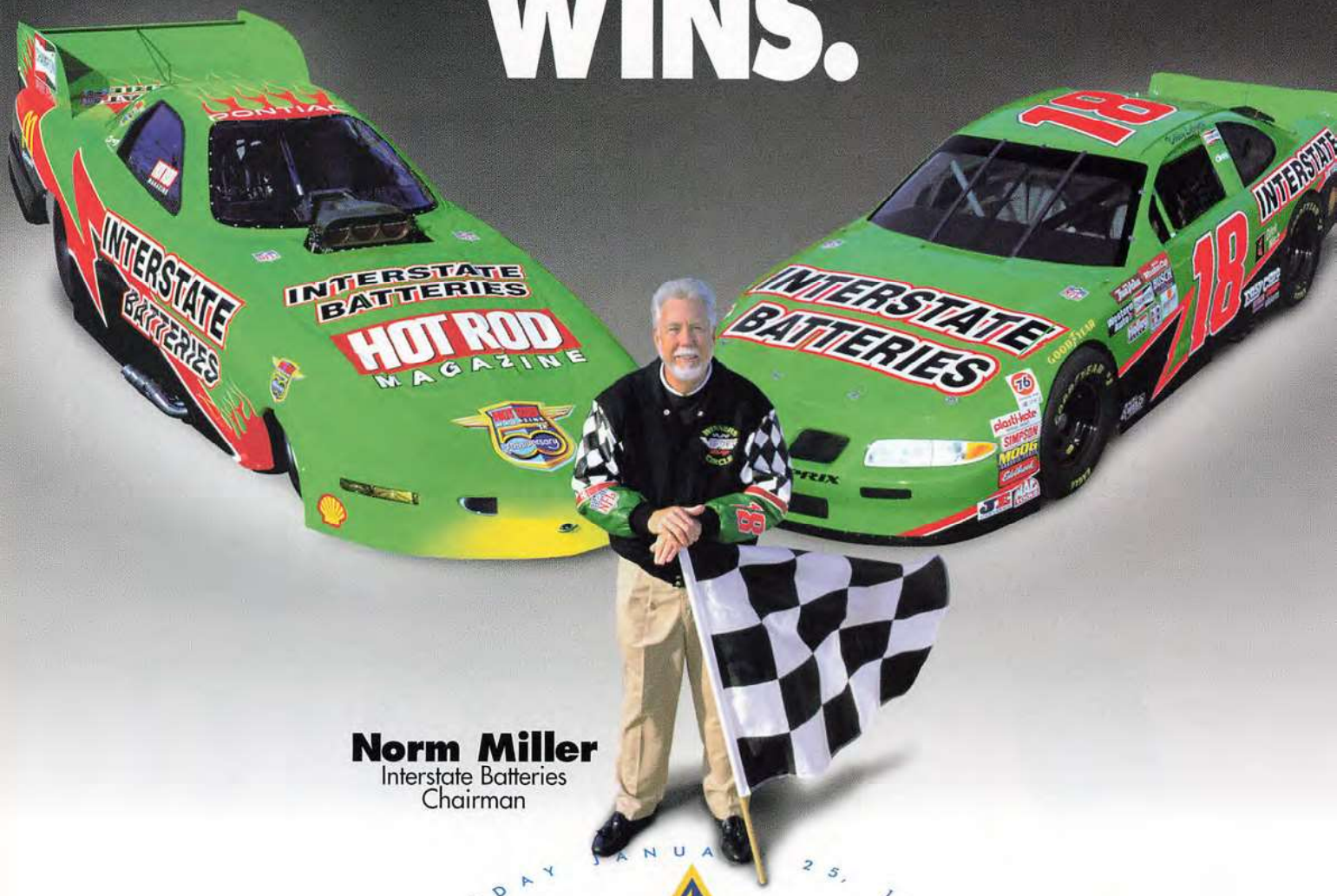

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

Barry Sanders passed Tony Dorsett to move into third place on the NFL's career rushing list during the Lions' loss to the Redskins. Sanders also became the first player in NFL history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in nine consecutive seasons and the first to rush for 100 yards in eight consecutive road games...Pittsburgh remained tied for the lead in the AFC Central with a 37-0 thrashing of Baltimore. The Steelers forced 7 turnovers by the Ravens...Emmitt Smith scored on a 5-yard run—just his second touchdown of the season—in Dallas's 24-6 rout of Arizona. The Cowboys, 5-5 overall, improved to 4-0 at home ...Minnesota averted an upset when Leroy Hoard's 1-yard run with 54 seconds left overcame a 22-21 deficit and lifted the Vikings to a 29-22 victory over Chicago. Minnesota's six-game winning streak was its longest since 1975.

JOE POELLOT

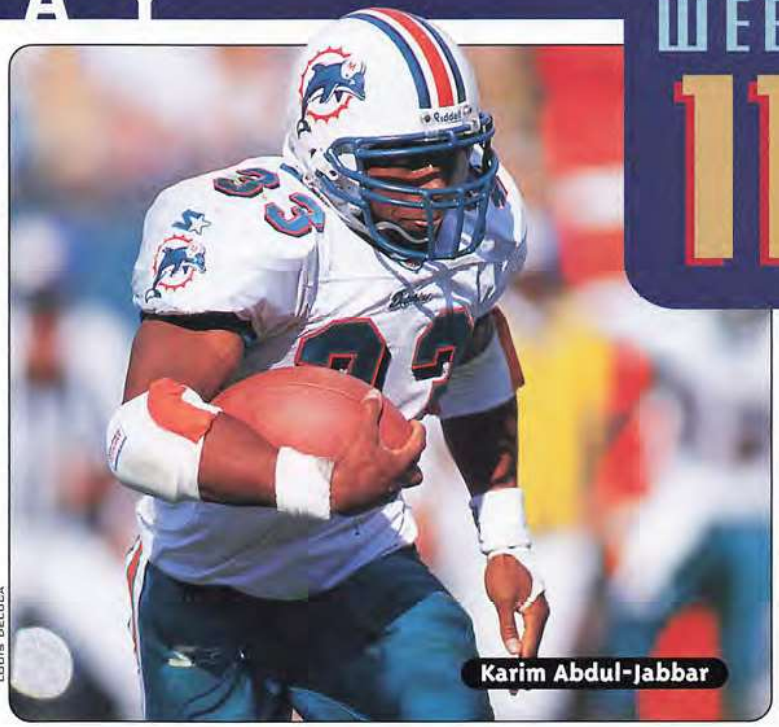
Multiple Division Choices

Miami hosted the Jets and New England played Buffalo, but the results did little to produce a frontrunner in the AFC East.

Karim Abdul-Jabbar rushed for 2 touchdowns to pace the Dolphins to a 24-17 victory over New York. The Jets dropped their fourth game of the season—all to teams within the division.

In Buffalo, the Patriots scored touchdowns via a run, a pass, on defense, and on special teams in a 31-10 rout of the Bills.

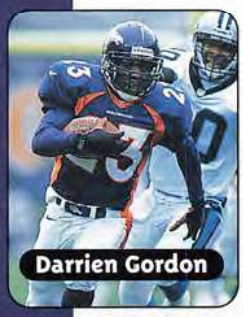
At day's end, Miami, New York, and New England all shared first place at 6-4, while Buffalo was a game behind at 5-5.



LOUIS DELUCA

Double Trouble

Denver's Darrien Gordon returned punts 82 and 75 yards for touchdowns in the first quarter to spark Denver's 34-0 rout of Carolina.



It was only the tenth time in NFL history, but the second time in two weeks, that a player returned 2 punts for touchdowns in the same game. San Diego's Eric Metcalf returned a pair of punts for touchdowns against Cincinnati in week 10.

Tennessee Waltzing

Eddie George ran 1 yard for the game's only touchdown as the Oilers snapped the Giants' five-game winning streak 10-6 in Memphis.

Despite losing four of their first five games, the Oilers quietly climbed back into the AFC playoff race by evening their record at 5-5.

Strings Attached

Washington's 30-7 victory over Detroit at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium was the Redskins' eighteenth in a row over the Lions since 1968. Detroit never has won in Washington, a string of 19 games that began in 1939.

Other notable streaks that were extended in week 11:

- Green Bay's 17-7 victory over the Rams was its twenty-first consecutive win at Lambeau Field, giving the Packers the second-longest home winning streak in NFL history (Miami holds the record with 27 consecutive home victories from 1971-74).
- Jacksonville won its eleventh consecutive home game by beating Kansas City 24-10. The Jaguars forced 5 turnovers on the Chiefs' last seven possessions of the game.
- San Francisco won its ninth consecutive game in 1997 by beating Philadelphia 24-12 on Monday night. Merton Hanks returned a fumble 38 yards, Garrison Hearst scored on a 1-yard run, and Chuck Levy brought back a punt 73 yards for the 49ers' touchdowns.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 28, **Indianapolis** 13
Jacksonville 24, Kansas City 10
Miami 24, N.Y. Jets 17
New England 31, **Buffalo** 10
Pittsburgh 37, Baltimore 0
Seattle 37, **San Diego** 31

NFC
Dallas 24, Arizona 6
Green Bay 17, St. Louis 7
Minnesota 29, Chicago 22
San Francisco 24, **Philadelphia** 12
Tampa Bay 31, **Atlanta** 10
Washington 30, Detroit 7

INTERCONFERENCE
Denver 34, Carolina 0
New Orleans 13, **Oakland** 10
Tennessee 10, N.Y. Giants 6
(Home teams in bold)

national football league

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	6	4	0
New England	6	4	0
N.Y. Jets	6	4	0
Buffalo	5	5	0
Indianapolis	0	10	0

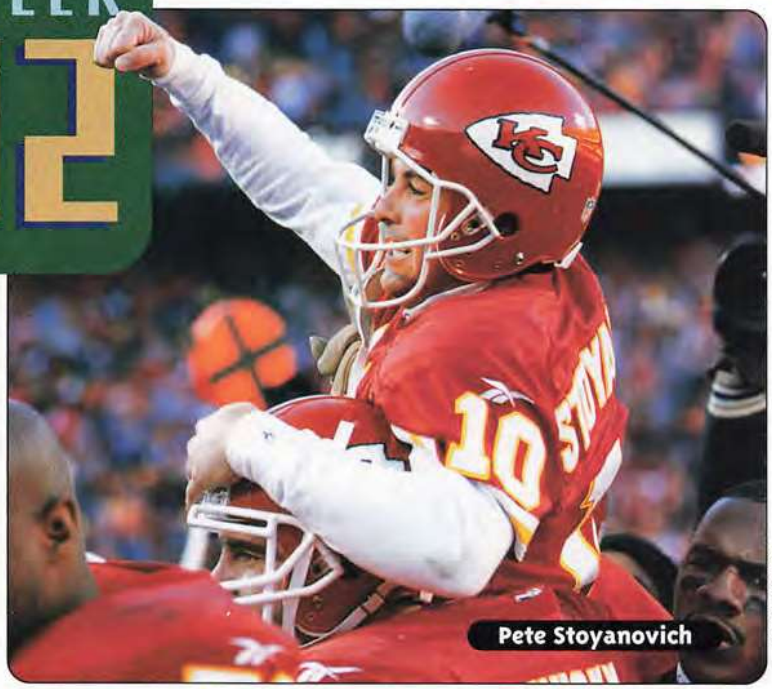
AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	7	3	0
Pittsburgh	7	3	0
Tennessee	5	5	0
Baltimore	4	6	0
Cincinnati	3	7	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	9	1	0
Kansas City	7	3	0
Seattle	6	4	0
San Diego	4	6	0
Oakland	3	7	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	6	4	0
Washington	6	4	0
Dallas	5	5	0
Philadelphia	4	6	0
Arizona	2	8	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	8	2	0
Minnesota	8	2	0
Tampa Bay	7	3	0
Detroit	4	6	0
Chicago	1	9	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	9	1	0
Carolina	5	5	0
New Orleans	3	7	0
Atlanta	2	8	0
St. Louis	2	8	0

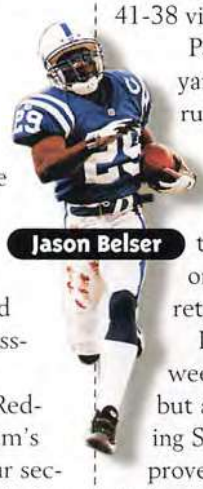

Pete Stoyanovich
DAVID STLUKA

Big Boots

Kansas City toppled Denver 24-22 and Dallas edged Washington 17-14 in key divisional matchups that were decided by field goals in the final seconds.

The Broncos took a 22-21 lead over the Chiefs on Jason Elam's 34-yard field goal with one minute left. But Kansas City drove 36 yards without a time out, and Pete Stoyanovich's 54-yard field goal barely cleared the crossbar as time expired.

The Cowboys beat the Redskins on Richie Cunningham's 42-yard field goal with four seconds left. Dallas had marched 97 yards to Troy Aikman's 6-yard touchdown pass to Michael Irvin and a tying two-point conversion pass to Emmitt Smith with 1:55 to go, then held on defense and forced a punt to set up the winning kick.


Jason Belser
DON LARSEN

Super Habit

Cary Blanchard kicked 4 field goals, including the game winner from 20 yards with no time remaining, in the Colts' shocking 41-38 victory over the Packers.

Paul Justin passed for 340 yards and Marshall Faulk rushed for 116 yards for Indianapolis. The Colts also got 2 touchdowns from their defense in the second quarter, one on a 50-yard interception return by Jason Belser.

Indianapolis entered the week winless in 10 games, but a visit from the defending Super Bowl champions proved to be just what the Colts needed. It was the third consecutive year in which Indianapolis had defeated the NFL's reigning champion (the others were Dallas in 1996 and San Francisco in 1995). Blanchard's field goals were the winning margin in each of those victories.

Bay Breeze

Terry Kirby's 101-yard kickoff return highlighted San Francisco's 27-19 victory over Carolina, a verdict that reclaimed the NFC West from last season's champion.

The 49ers were best in the NFC west for the thirteenth time since 1981, and this may have been the easiest: They joined the 1985 Bears as the only teams to clinch a division title as early as the eleventh game of a 16-game schedule.

A Day for the Underdogs

In addition to the Colts' victory over the Packers, two other upstarts derailed teams battling for playoff spots.

Barry Sanders rushed for 108 yards and Tommy Vardell had 3 short touchdown runs as the Lions snapped Minnesota's six-game winning streak 38-15.

And the Saints stunned the Seahawks 20-17. Winfred Tubbs's interception on the first play of overtime set up Doug Brien's 38-yard field goal 17 seconds into the extra session.

SCORES

AFC
Jacksonville 17, Tennessee 9
Kansas City 24, Denver 22
Miami 30, Buffalo 13
Oakland 38, **San Diego** 13
Pittsburgh 20, Cincinnati 3

NFC
Atlanta 27, **St. Louis** 21
Dallas 17, Washington 14
Detroit 38, Minnesota 15
N.Y. Giants 19, Arizona 10
San Francisco 27, Carolina 19

INTERCONFERENCE
Baltimore 10, Philadelphia 10 (OT)
Indianapolis 41, Green Bay 38
New Orleans 20, Seattle 17 (OT)
N.Y. Jets 23, **Chicago** 15
Tampa Bay 27, New England 7
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The Eagles and Ravens battled to a 10-10 tie at Baltimore–the NFL's first tie game since 1989...Atlanta (27-21 at St. Louis), the Jets (23-15 at Chicago), and Oakland (38-13 at San Diego) were the only visiting teams to win in week 12...Tampa Bay's defense thoroughly stymied New England in a 27-7 victory. The Buccaneers did not allow a first down until nearly five minutes had elapsed in the third quarter. The Patriots finished with only 168 total yards...Pittsburgh and Jacksonville remained tied atop the AFC Central. The Steelers got 101 rushing yards from Jerome Bettis and 101 receiving yards from Yancey Thigpen while beating the Bengals 20-3. The Jaguars held off the Oilers 17-9 to win their twelfth consecutive home game... Charles Way had 114 of the Giants' 201 rushing yards, and defensive end Michael Strahan had 3 of New York's 8 sacks in a 19-10 victory over Arizona. The Giants moved back into first place in the NFC East.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	7	4	0
N.Y. Jets	7	4	0
New England	6	5	0
Buffalo	5	6	0
Indianapolis	1	10	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	8	3	0
Pittsburgh	8	3	0
Tennessee	5	6	0
Baltimore	4	6	1
Cincinnati	3	8	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	9	2	0
Kansas City	8	3	0
Seattle	6	5	0
Oakland	4	7	0
San Diego	4	7	0

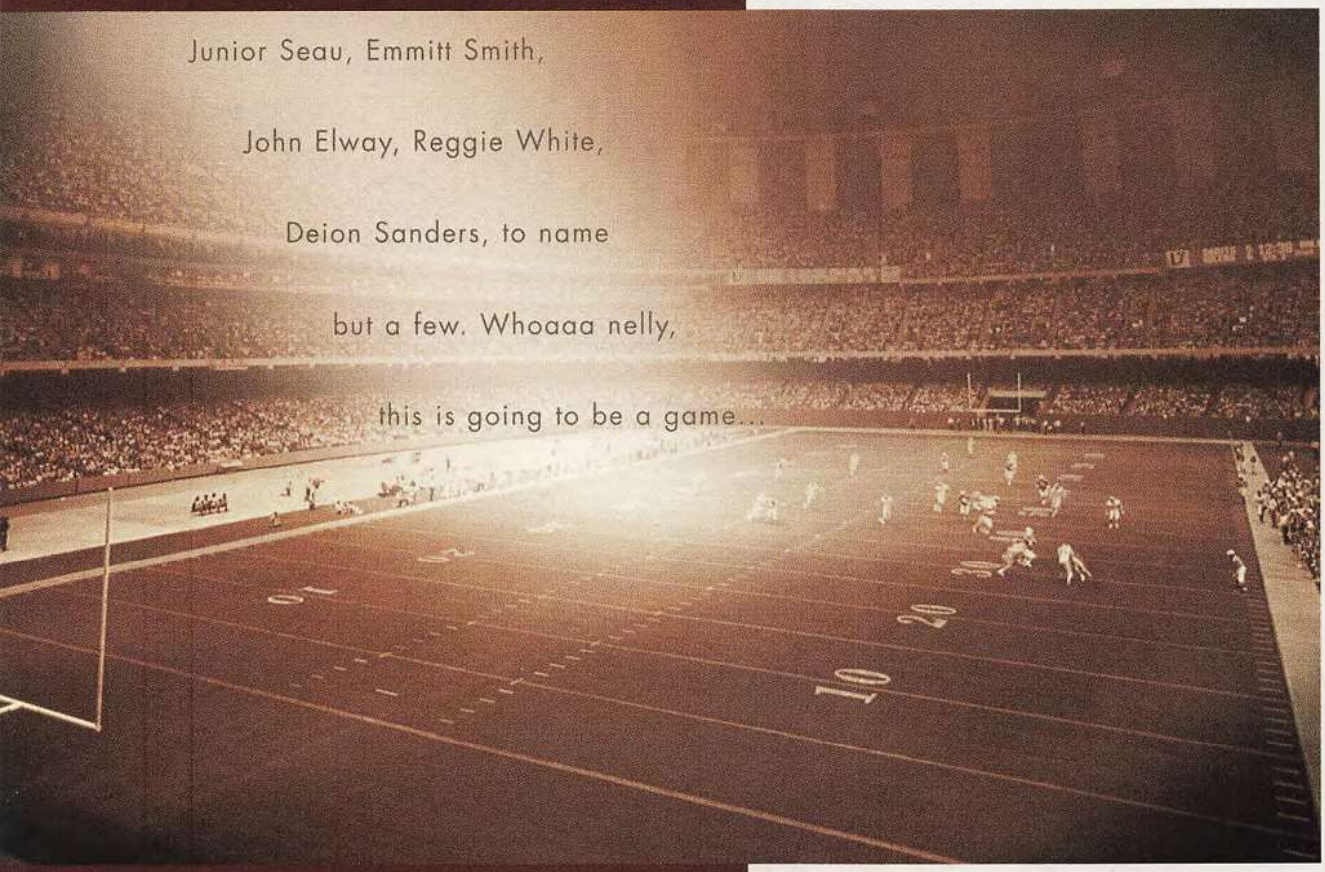
NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0
Dallas	6	5	0
Washington	6	5	0
Philadelphia	4	6	1
Arizona	2	9	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	8	3	0
Minnesota	8	3	0
Tampa Bay	8	3	0
Detroit	5	6	0
Chicago	1	10	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	10	1	0
Carolina	5	6	0
New Orleans	4	7	0
Atlanta	3	8	0
St. Louis	2	9	0

Y.A. Tittle, Gale Sayers,

Ronnie Lott, Jerry Rice,



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AROUND THE LEAGUE

Boomer Esiason, starting his first game for Cincinnati since 1992, passed for 2 touchdowns in the Bengals' victory over the Jaguars...Barry Sanders rushed for 216 yards, including touchdowns of 80 and 4 yards as the Lions kept their wild-card hopes alive with a 32-10 rout of the Colts. Sanders rushed for more than 100 yards in his tenth consecutive game, one short of the NFL record...Kansas City stopped Seattle at the 10-yard line in the closing minutes to preserve a 19-14 victory. The Chiefs did not allow a second-half touchdown for the seventh consecutive week...Joe Nedney's 43-yard field goal as time ran out lifted Arizona to a 16-13 victory over Baltimore. It was the sixth time this season that a Cardinals' game had been decided by 3 points or less...After going eight years between ties, the NFL had its second in as many weeks. The Redskins and Giants battled to a 7-7 tie, a game in which the teams punted 22 times.

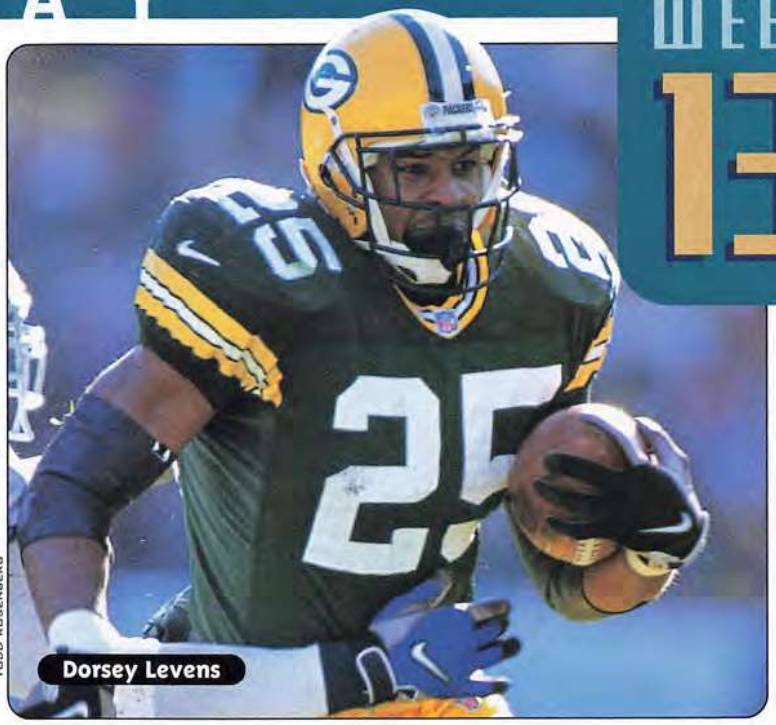
No Place Like Home

After failing to beat the Cowboys in seven consecutive games in Dallas since 1993, Green Bay finally got its nemesis at Lambeau Field and snapped the string with a convincing 45-17 victory.

The game was close for two quarters. Deion Sanders's 50-yard interception return for a touchdown helped the Cowboys to a 10-10 tie at halftime.

But the Packers exploded after intermission, marching 69, 73, 61, and 88 yards to touchdowns the four times they had the ball.

Brett Favre passed for 4 touchdowns, and Dorsey Levens rushed for a club-record 190 yards and scored twice for Green Bay. The Packers outgained Dallas 409-213 and maintained possession for 37:19 of the game's 60 minutes.



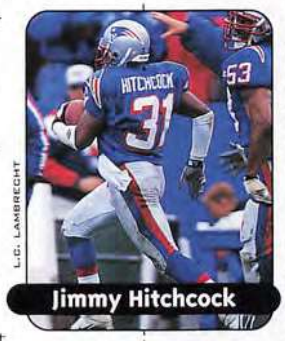
TODD ROSENBERG

Dorsey Levens

Fallow Leaders

San Francisco (11-1) and Denver (10-2) improved their league-best records, but of the other eight teams that entered the week in first place or tied for first place, only two won.

Among the front runners to fall were Jacksonville and Pittsburgh, each of which missed a chance to take over sole possession of the lead in the AFC Central. The Jaguars were stunned by last-place Cincinnati 31-26, while the Steelers lost to in-state rival Philadelphia 23-20.



L.G. LAMBRECHT

Jimmy Hitchcock

Unbearable

Game-time temperature for the Buccaneers-Bears game in Chicago was 28 degrees. That was bad news for Tampa Bay, which never has won a game in temperatures below 42 degrees.

Raymont Harris rushed for 116 yards and a touchdown to lead the Bears, who extended the Buccaneers' winless cold-weather streak to 17 with a 13-7 victory.

Scoring Defense

Defending AFC-champion New England snapped out of its lethargy with a 27-24 victory over Miami.

The Patriots broke open the game against the Dolphins when Larry Whigham returned an interception 60 yards for a touchdown 1:44 before halftime, and Jimmy Hitchcock followed with a 100-yard interception return for a touchdown and a 24-3 lead with just 11 seconds left in the half.

The outcome left the two teams tied for second place in the AFC East, one game behind the Jets. New York held on to defeat Minnesota 23-21 when Vikings running back Robert Smith was stopped in the backfield on a 2-point conversion attempt with no time remaining.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 31, Jacksonville 26
Denver 31, Oakland 3
Kansas City 19, **Seattle** 14
New England 27, Miami 24
Tennessee 31, Buffalo 14

NFC
Atlanta 20, New Orleans 3
Carolina 16, **St. Louis** 10
Chicago 13, Tampa Bay 7
Green Bay 45, Dallas 17
Washington 7, N.Y. Giants 7 (OT)

INTERCONFERENCE
Arizona 16, **Baltimore** 13
Detroit 32, Indianapolis 10
N.Y. Jets 23, Minnesota 21
Philadelphia 23, Pittsburgh 20
San Francisco 17, San Diego 10
(Home teams in bold)

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Jets	8	4	0
Miami	7	5	0
New England	7	5	0
Buffalo	5	7	0
Indianapolis	1	11	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	8	4	0
Pittsburgh	8	4	0
Tennessee	6	6	0
Baltimore	4	7	1
Cincinnati	4	8	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	10	2	0
Kansas City	9	3	0
Seattle	6	6	0
Oakland	4	8	0
San Diego	4	8	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	7	4	1
Washington	6	5	1
Dallas	6	6	0
Philadelphia	5	6	1
Arizona	3	9	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	9	3	0
Minnesota	8	4	0
Tampa Bay	8	4	0
Detroit	6	6	0
Chicago	2	10	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	11	1	0
Carolina	6	6	0
Atlanta	4	8	0
New Orleans	4	8	0
St. Louis	2	10	0

Charles Jordan
KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

Three's a Crowd

Miami beat Oakland 34-16, New England edged Indianapolis 20-17, and Buffalo surprised the New York Jets 20-10, leaving the Dolphins, Patriots, and Jets tied for the AFC East lead with three games to play.

The Dolphins' victory, their first ever at Oakland, was keyed by a pair of touchdown passes from Dan Marino to Charles Jordan. But the Patriots gained the upper hand in the three-team chase, improving to 6-1 in games played within the division (an important end-of-season tie breaker). The Jets fell to 2-5 against division foes.

One and One Makes Two

For the second time in three weeks, Kansas City upended a team that visited Arrowhead Stadium with just one loss. After beating the 9-1 Broncos in mid-November, the Chiefs pummeled 11-1 San Francisco 44-9, handing the 49ers their worst regular-season defeat in 17 years.

Rich Gannon threw 3 touchdown passes and Marcus Allen ran for 1 touchdown and passed for another for Kansas City, which scored touchdowns on four consecutive first-half possessions to build a 28-3 lead. The 49ers had allowed only 12 points per game entering the week.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 20, N.Y. Jets 10
Denver 38, **San Diego** 28
Jacksonville 29, Baltimore 27
Miami 34, **Oakland** 16
New England 20, Indianapolis 17

NFC
Detroit 55, Chicago 20
Green Bay 27, **Minnesota** 11
New Orleans 16, **Carolina** 13
St. Louis 23, **Washington** 20
Tampa Bay 20, **N.Y. Giants** 8

INTERCONFERENCE
Atlanta 24, **Seattle** 17
Kansas City 44, San Francisco 9
Philadelphia 44, Cincinnati 42
Pittsburgh 26, **Arizona** 20 (OT)
Tennessee 27, **Dallas** 14
(Home teams in bold)

Hoying Spreads His Wings

Foundering at 4-6 three weeks ago, and with their playoff hopes just about extinct, the Eagles inserted second-year quarterback Bobby Hoying into the lineup.

Two victories and a tie later, Philadelphia had climbed within a game of the NFC East-leading Giants and just half a game out of an NFC wild-card berth.

Against the Bengals, Hoying passed for 313 yards and 4 touchdowns in a 44-42 victory. After Cincinnati had rallied to take a 42-41 lead on Brian Milne's 1-yard touchdown run with a minute left, Hoying guided his team 61 yards to Chris Boniol's winning 31-yard field goal.

Holiday Specials

Barry Sanders ran for 167 yards—including touchdowns of 40, 25, and 15 yards—and moved into second place on the NFL's career-rushing list in the Lions' 55-20 rout of the Bears on Thanksgiving Day. Detroit won its third consecutive game and took control of its destiny in the wild-card playoff chase. The 55 points were a Lions club record and the most ever allowed by the Bears in a regular season game.

Jerome Bettis
ERIC DRATTER

On the same day, the Oilers boosted their playoff hopes, handing the Cowboys a crushing 27-14 defeat.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Garrison Hearst became the 49ers' first 1,000-yard rusher since 1992. But Hearst suffered a broken collarbone on the 45-yard run that put him over 1,000 and was lost for the remainder of the regular season ...Rookie Byron Hanspard's 93-yard kickoff return helped Atlanta upset Seattle 24-17, all but ending the Seahawks' playoff chances...The Giants and Redskins entered the week one-two in the NFC East, but both stumbled at home. New York fell to Tampa Bay 20-8, while Washington was upset by St. Louis 23-20. The Buccaneers ensured their first winning season since 1982, while the Rams snapped an eight-game losing streak... Jerome Bettis rushed for 142 yards and 3 touchdowns, including the game winner from 10 yards in overtime, as the Steelers beat Arizona 26-20...The Packers beat the Vikings 27-11. It was Mike Holmgren's first victory in Minnesota in his six years as Green Bay's coach.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	8	5	0
New England	8	5	0
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0
Buffalo	6	7	0
Indianapolis	1	12	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Jacksonville	9	4	0
Pittsburgh	9	4	0
Tennessee	7	6	0
Baltimore	4	8	1
Cincinnati	4	9	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	11	2	0
Kansas City	10	3	0
Seattle	6	7	0
Oakland	4	9	0
San Diego	4	9	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	7	5	1
Philadelphia	6	6	1
Washington	6	6	1
Dallas	6	7	0
Arizona	3	10	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	10	3	0
Tampa Bay	9	4	0
Minnesota	8	5	0
Detroit	7	6	0
Chicago	2	11	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	11	2	0
Carolina	6	7	0
Atlanta	5	8	0
New Orleans	5	8	0
St. Louis	3	10	0

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

Baltimore's Jermaine Lewis became the third player this season to return 2 punts for touchdowns in the same game. He also caught a 29-yard touchdown pass and accumulated 308 all-purpose yards as the Ravens beat slumping Seattle 31-24... Kansas City moved into a tie for first place in the AFC West with a 30-0 rout of Oakland. The Chiefs amassed huge advantages in first downs (27-5), total yards (418-93), and time of possession (41:30-18:30)... Atlanta's 14-3 victory over San Diego was its fourth in a row after beginning the season with a record of 2-8... Jeff Hostetler threw 3 touchdown passes in his first start for the Redskins, who beat Arizona 38-28. Washington remained a game behind the NFC East-leading Giants, who dealt Philadelphia a 31-21 defeat... This week's Barry Sanders milestone log: He rushed for 137 yards in the Lions' loss to the Dolphins, giving him an NFL-record 12 consecutive games with at least 100 yards rushing.

Battle of the Bays

Green Bay maintained its superiority in the NFC Central by quashing upstart Tampa Bay's division-title hopes with a 17-6 victory at Houlihan's Stadium.

Brett Favre threw touchdown passes to Robert Brooks (43 yards) and Dorsey Levens (8 yards), and the Packers' defense limited the Buccaneers to a pair of first-half field goals and just 161 total yards.

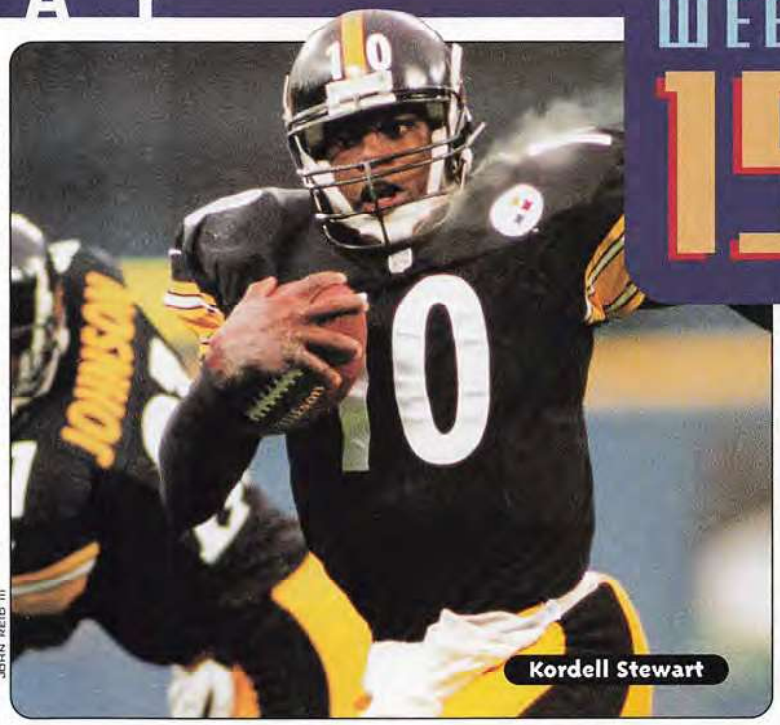
The defending Super Bowl champions clinched their third consecutive division title and secured a first-round bye in the playoffs with the victory.

Kordell Kayos Broncos

Quarterback Kordell Stewart rallied Pittsburgh from 7-0 and 21-7 deficits with 3 touchdown passes in the first half, then scored the decisive touchdowns on the ground in the second half to help the Steelers overcome Denver 35-24.

Stewart teamed with Yancey Thigpen on touchdown strikes of 33, 69, and 21 yards as the first half ended in a 21-21 tie. The versatile quarterback's 4-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter gave Pittsburgh the lead for good, and his 9-yard run with 1:57 left clinched the victory.

The Broncos' third loss, all on the road, jeopardized their chances of securing home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.



JOHN REID III

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 31, Seattle 24
Cincinnati 41, Tennessee 14
Indianapolis 22, **N.Y. Jets** 14
Kansas City 30, Oakland 0
New England 26, **Jacksonville** 20
Pittsburgh 35, Denver 24

NFC
Carolina 23, **Dallas** 13
Green Bay 17, **Tampa Bay** 6
N.Y. Giants 31, **Philadelphia** 21
St. Louis 34, **New Orleans** 27
San Francisco 28, Minnesota 17
Washington 38, **Arizona** 28

INTERCONFERENCE
Atlanta 14, **San Diego** 3
Chicago 20, Buffalo 3
Miami 33, Detroit 30
(Home teams in bold)

Brown Out

Corey Dillon eclipsed Jim Brown's 40-year-old single-game rookie rushing record in the Bengals' 41-14 rout of the Oilers on Thursday night.

JOE ROBBINS

Tennessee had allowed only 88.5 rushing yards per game, second best in the NFL, but Dillon shredded the Oilers for 246 yards on 39 carries. He had touchdown runs of 2, 31, 1, and 2 yards.

Brown, a Hall of Fame enshrinee, rushed for 237 yards as a rookie for the Cleveland Browns in 1957.

Patriot Missiles

With starting running back Curtis Martin out with a shoulder injury, New England turned to its passing game to snap Jacksonville's 13-game home winning streak 26-20.

Quarterback Drew Bledsoe completed 26 of 35 passes for 234 yards and 2 first-half touchdowns to knock the Jaguars out of a first-place tie in the AFC Central.

New England remained tied atop the AFC East with Miami, which outlasted Detroit 33-30 on Olindo Mare's 42-yard field goal as time ran out.

The Jets fell a game behind by dropping a 22-14 decision to the Colts.

national football league standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	9	5	0
New England	9	5	0
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0
Buffalo	6	8	0
Indianapolis	2	12	0

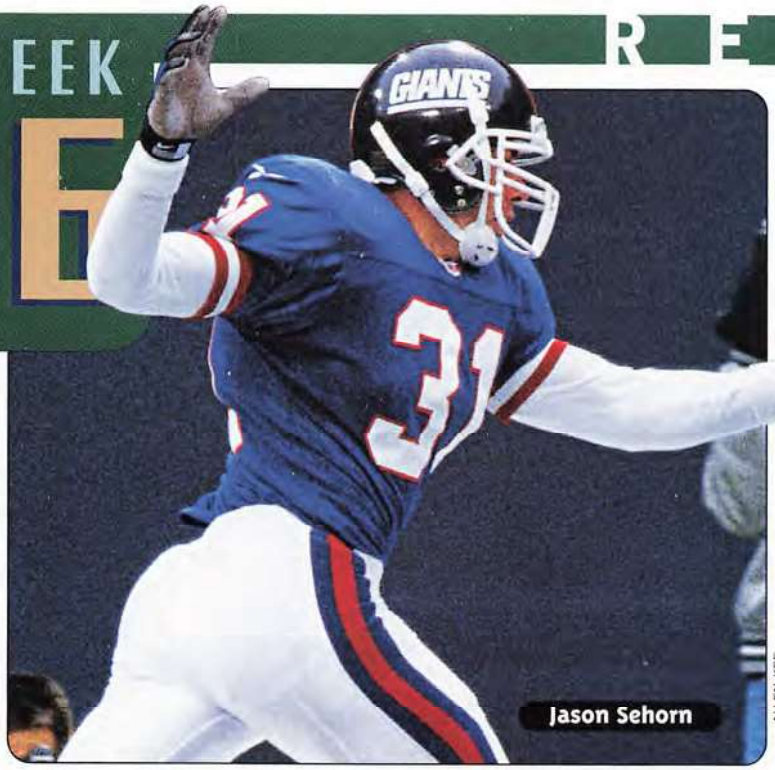
AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	10	4	0
Jacksonville	9	5	0
Tennessee	7	7	0
Baltimore	5	8	1
Cincinnati	5	9	0

AFC West	W	L	T
Denver	11	3	0
Kansas City	11	3	0
Seattle	6	8	0
Oakland	4	10	0
San Diego	4	10	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	8	5	1
Washington	7	6	1
Philadelphia	6	7	1
Dallas	6	8	0
Arizona	3	11	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	11	3	0
Tampa Bay	9	5	0
Minnesota	8	6	0
Detroit	7	7	0
Chicago	3	11	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	12	2	0
Carolina	7	7	0
Atlanta	6	8	0
New Orleans	5	9	0
St. Louis	4	10	0



Jason Sehorn

ALLEN KEE

Giant Leap

Jason Sehorn's 35-yard interception return for a touchdown early in the fourth quarter was the final blow in the Giants' 30-10 victory over Washington to clinch the NFC East title.

Charles Way ran for a touchdown and Danny Kanell passed for another for New York. The game capped a remarkable turnaround for the Giants, who finished last in the division in 1996.

New York won its first division title since 1990, the Giants' last Super Bowl season.

Down to the Wire

The front-running Dolphins and Patriots stumbled in week 16, so the Jets' 31-0 rout of Tampa Bay created another three-way tie atop the AFC East.

New York's shutout was keyed by a pair of interception returns for touchdowns by Otis Smith. But the Buccaneers still clinched a wild-card playoff berth when the Panthers lost to the Packers later in the day.

Miami was pummeled 41-0 by last-place Indianapolis, while the Patriots suffered a heartbreaking 24-21 loss to Pittsburgh. New England led 21-13 until a late fourth-quarter interception set up Kordell Stewart's 1-yard touchdown pass to Mark Bruener and a tying 2-point conversion pass to Yancey Thigpen with 38 seconds left. The Steelers won when Norm Johnson kicked a 31-yard field goal 4:43 into overtime.

Jerry Rice

GREG TROTT

Home for the Holidays

San Francisco earned home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs with a 34-17 victory over Denver on Monday night. The 49ers' victory also assured Kansas City the same edge in the AFC playoffs.

On Saturday, Pittsburgh's overtime victory at New England all but clinched the AFC Central Division title and a bye in the first round of the playoffs. Jacksonville also wrapped up a playoff berth with a 20-14 victory at Buffalo. But the Jaguars' lone chance at winning the division hinged on the unfathomable—the Steelers losing their final game to the Oilers by 65 or more points.

Three for Two

With all the division races settled in the NFC, three teams—Detroit, Minnesota, and Washington—were left to settle the remaining two wild-card spots.

The Lions controlled their own fate after a 14-13 victory over the Vikings on Scott Mitchell's 1-yard touchdown pass to Herman Moore with three seconds left.

SCORES

AFC
Baltimore 21, Tennessee 19
Indianapolis 41, Miami 0
Jacksonville 20, **Buffalo** 14
Kansas City 29, **San Diego** 7
Pittsburgh 24, **New England** 21 (OT)
Seattle 22, **Oakland** 21

NFC
Atlanta 20, Philadelphia 17
Chicago 13, **St. Louis** 10
Detroit 14, **Minnesota** 13
Green Bay 31, **Carolina** 10
New Orleans 27, Arizona 10
N.Y. Giants 30, Washington 10

INTERCONFERENCE
Cincinnati 31, Dallas 24
N.Y. Jets 31, Tampa Bay 0
San Francisco 34, Denver 17
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Cincinnati's 31-24 victory over Dallas officially eliminated the Cowboys from postseason play for the first time in seven seasons...Kansas City held its opponent without a second-half touchdown for the tenth consecutive week in a 29-7 victory over San Diego...Jim Harbaugh threw 4 touchdown passes, 3 to tight end Ken Dilger, in the second quarter of the Colts' rout of the Dolphins...Morten Andersen's 33-yard field goal as time ran out lifted Atlanta to its fifth consecutive victory, 20-17 over Philadelphia. The Falcons, however, were eliminated from the playoffs earlier in the day by Detroit's victory...San Francisco's Jerry Rice returned to the lineup just 15 weeks after suffering torn ligaments in his knee. Rice caught a touchdown pass in the 49ers' victory over Denver and became the first nonkicker to amass 1,000 career points. But he suffered a fractured left kneecap on his touchdown and was lost for the playoffs.

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	9	6	0
New England	9	6	0
N.Y. Jets	9	6	0
Buffalo	6	9	0
Indianapolis	3	12	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	11	4	0
Jacksonville	10	5	0
Tennessee	7	8	0
Baltimore	6	8	1
Cincinnati	6	9	0

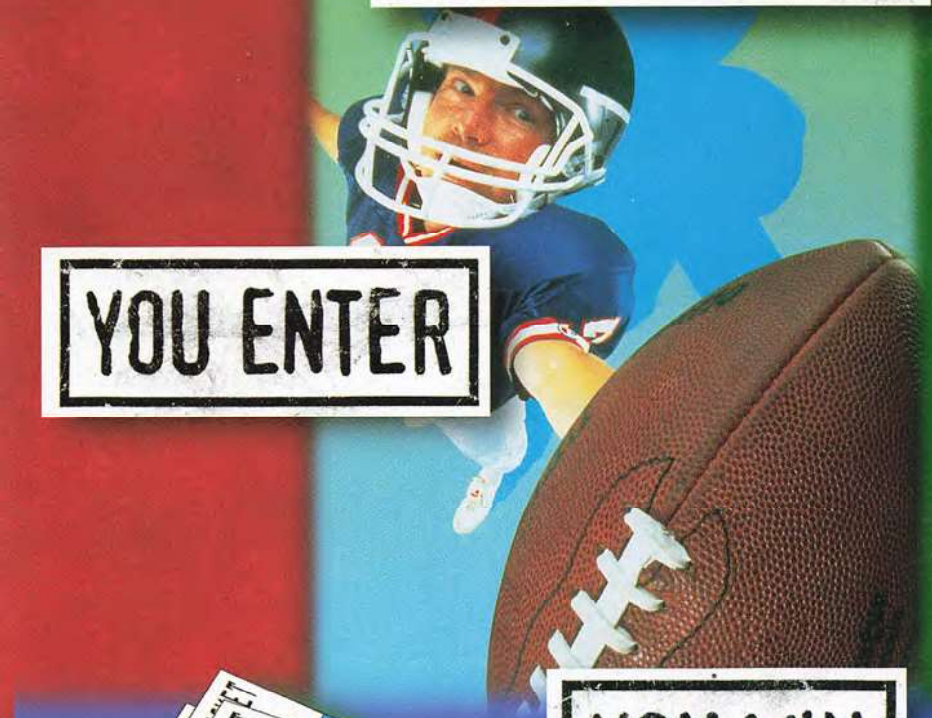
AFC West	W	L	T
Kansas City	12	3	0
Denver	11	4	0
Seattle	7	8	0
Oakland	4	11	0
San Diego	4	11	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	9	5	1
Washington	7	7	1
Philadelphia	6	8	1
Dallas	6	9	0
Arizona	3	12	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	12	3	0
Tampa Bay	9	6	0
Detroit	8	7	0
Minnesota	8	7	0
Chicago	4	11	0

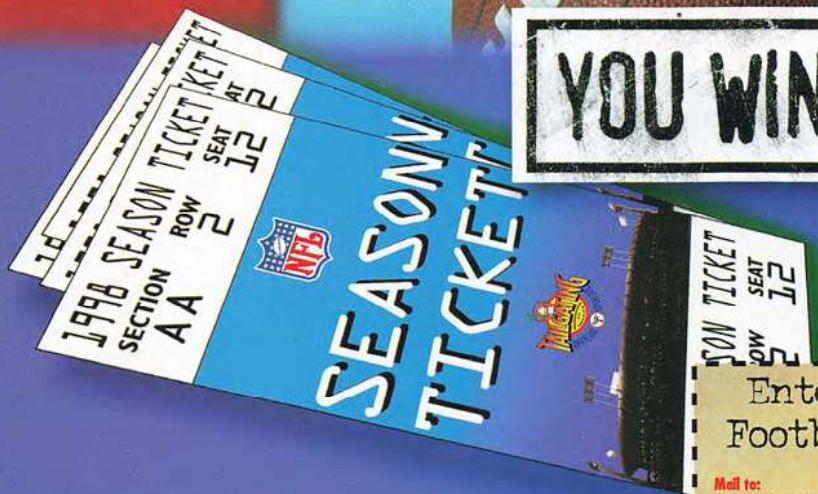
NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	13	2	0
Atlanta	7	8	0
Carolina	7	8	0
New Orleans	6	9	0
St. Louis	4	11	0

YOU TAILGATE



YOU ENTER

YOU WIN



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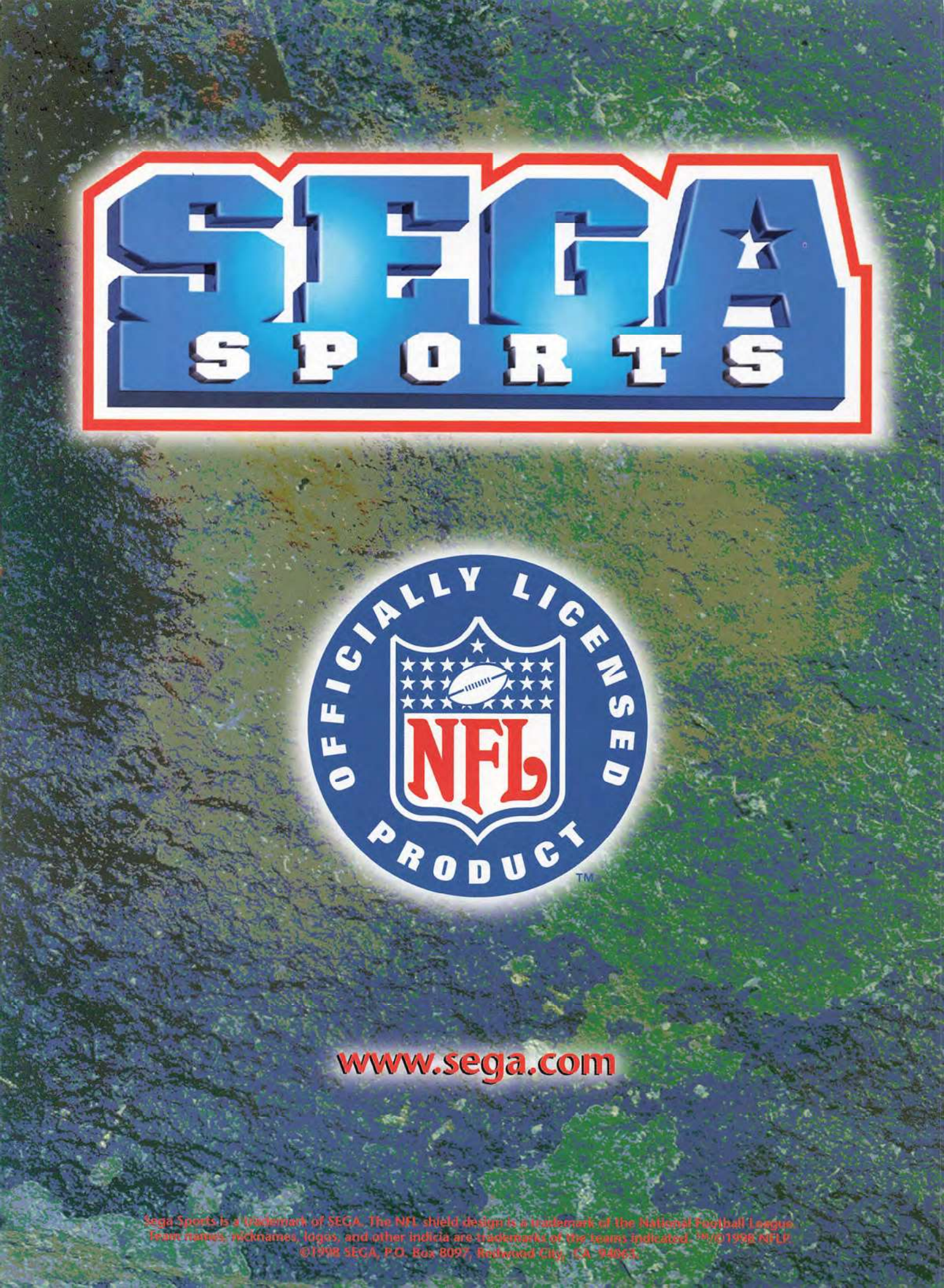

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

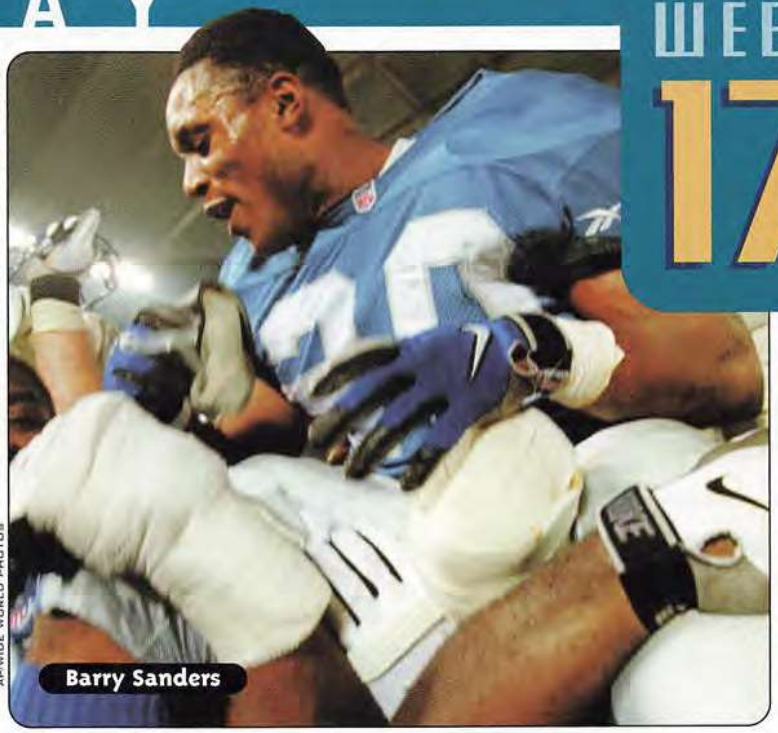
John Elway threw 4 touchdown passes as the Broncos secured a home game in the wild-card round of the playoffs with a 38-3 rout of San Diego. Elway, 37, broke his club record for touchdown passes in a season with 27...Two other venerable quarterbacks led their teams to victories in the final week: 36-year-old Boomer Esiason threw 2 touchdown passes as Cincinnati edged the Ravens 16-14 for its sixth victory in eight games, and 41-year-old Warren Moon had 4 touchdown passes in Seattle's 38-9 rout of San Francisco ...Tampa Bay's 31-15 victory over Chicago ensured the Buccaneers their first playoff game at home since 1979...Washington beat Philadelphia 35-32, but was eliminated from the playoffs when Minnesota and Detroit won... Pittsburgh lost 16-6 at Tennessee, but clinched the AFC Central title by staying within 64 points of the Oilers–point differential being the decisive tiebreaker in the Steelers' tie with Jacksonville.

Two-Grand Finale

Barry Sanders rushed for 184 yards and the go-ahead touchdown early in the fourth quarter, to lead Detroit to a 13-10 victory over the New York Jets.

The Lions' running back also joined Eric Dickerson and O.J. Simpson as the only players to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season. Sanders's 47-yard run late in the third quarter set up his 15-yard touchdown dash. His game-clinching 53-yard run late in the fourth quarter came one play after he reached 2,000 for the season. He finished at 2,053, second only to Dickerson's 2,105 in 1984.

Detroit's victory secured an NFC wild-card playoff berth, while knocking the Jets out of the AFC postseason picture.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

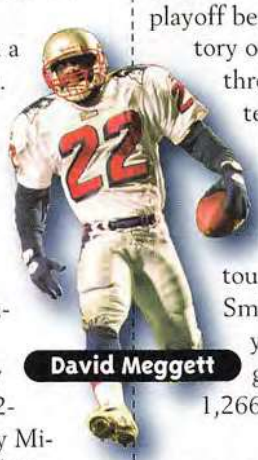
Barry Sanders

First of Two

New England's 14-12 victory at Miami gave the Patriots the AFC East title and earned them the right to host the Dolphins one week later in a wild-card playoff game.

The defending AFC champions erased a 6-0 halftime deficit with short touchdown runs by Marrio Grier and David Meggett. The Patriots held on to win when a holding penalty nullified a game-tying 2-point conversion run by Miami's Karim Abdul-Jabbar with 3:46 left. Dan Marino's pass on the next try fell incomplete.

New England won for the fourth time in five games to edge the Dolphins and Jets by one game for the division title.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

David Meggett

And Vikings Make Three

Randall Cunningham threw 4 touchdown passes as the Vikings stopped their five-game losing streak and earned a wild-card playoff berth with a 39-28 victory over Indianapolis. All three NFC wild-card teams came from the Central Division.

Cunningham teamed with Cris Carter on 3 of his touchdown passes. Robert Smith added 160 rushing yards to set a club single-season record with 1,266.

Feast on the East

The Giants defeated Dallas 20-7 to become the first NFC East team to go unbeaten against its division opponents. New York was 7-0-1 against the East.

What Price Victory?

Arizona finally ended its string of bad luck when Jake Plummer's 1-yard touchdown pass to Larry Centers with five seconds left beat Atlanta 29-26. But the Cardinals' victory came at a price: It cost Arizona the first pick of the 1998 NFL draft, which instead went to Indianapolis.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 16, Baltimore 14
Denver 38, San Diego 3
Jacksonville 20, **Oakland** 9
New England 14, **Miami** 12
Tennessee 16, Pittsburgh 6

NFC
Arizona 29, Atlanta 26
N.Y. Giants 20, **Dallas** 7
St. Louis 30, **Carolina** 18
Tampa Bay 31, Chicago 15
Washington 35, Philadelphia 32

INTERCONFERENCE
Detroit 13, N.Y. Jets 10
Green Bay 31, Buffalo 21
Kansas City 25, New Orleans 13
Minnesota 39, Indianapolis 28
Seattle 38, San Francisco 9
(Home teams in bold)

standings

AFC East	W	L	T
New England	10	6	0
Miami	9	7	0
N.Y. Jets	9	7	0
Buffalo	6	10	0
Indianapolis	3	13	0

AFC Central	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	11	5	0
Jacksonville	11	5	0
Tennessee	8	8	0
Cincinnati	7	9	0
Baltimore	6	9	1

AFC West	W	L	T
Kansas City	13	3	0
Denver	12	4	0
Seattle	8	8	0
Oakland	4	12	0
San Diego	4	12	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	10	5	1
Washington	8	7	1
Philadelphia	6	9	1
Dallas	6	10	0
Arizona	4	12	0

NFC Central	W	L	T
Green Bay	13	3	0
Tampa Bay	10	6	0
Detroit	9	7	0
Minnesota	9	7	0
Chicago	4	12	0

NFC West	W	L	T
San Francisco	13	3	0
Carolina	7	9	0
Atlanta	7	9	0
New Orleans	6	10	0
St. Louis	5	11	0

WILD CARD GAMES

AFC WILD CARD GAMES

Getting Even

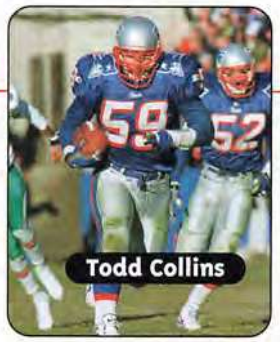
Terrell Davis rushed for 184 yards and 2 touchdowns in less than three quarters to help Denver beat Jacksonville 42-17 in an AFC Wild-Card Game at Mile High Stadium.

The victory avenged the Jaguars' 31-27 upset of the Broncos in a divisional playoff game the year before. Denver had entered that game as the favorite to represent the AFC in Super Bowl XXXI.

This time the Broncos entered the playoffs struggling, and with Davis nursing a separated shoulder. But the Pro Bowl running back ran 2 yards for a touchdown to cap a 15-play, 73-yard drive that took 7:21 following the opening kickoff. His 5-yard touchdown run in the second quarter increased the advantage to 21-0.

"Mile High Salute"

After Jacksonville narrowed the gap to 21-17, Broncos tailback Derek Loville ran 25 and 8 yards for touchdowns to put the game away in the fourth quarter. Loville, playing because Davis left the game after suffering bruised ribs, had 103 yards on only 11 carries.


Todd Collins

Patriots Show Their Cullors

New England used a stingy defense and the running of Derrick Cullors to defeat Miami 17-3 in Foxboro.

The Patriots, who stymied the Dolphins for the second consecutive week and the third time in six weeks, limited Miami to Olindo Mare's 38-yard field goal nine seconds into the final quarter.

By that time, New England had scored all the points it needed on Drew Bledsoe's 24-yard touchdown pass to Troy Brown, Todd Collins's 40-yard interception return for a touchdown, and Adam Vinatieri's 22-yard field goal.

Cullors, subbing for injured Curtis Martin, helped keep the Dolphins' offense off the field by rushing for 86 yards on 22 carries. But even when Miami did get the ball, it offered a feeble challenge. Dan Marino, harried all game by New England's pass rush, completed only 17 of 43 passes for 141 yards, and the Dolphins rushed for a scant 42 yards on 17 carries.

NFC WILD CARD GAMES

Defensive Attitude

Trent Dilfer threw 1 touchdown pass and Mike Alstott ran 31 yards for another touchdown, but it was Tampa Bay's defense that keyed a 20-10 victory over visiting Detroit.

"All week long, we'd been hearing Barry this and Barry that," Buccaneers defensive tackle Brad Culpepper said. "Maybe that was fodder for us."

Tampa Bay Defense

Tampa Bay limited Barry Sanders, the Lions' 2,000-yard running back, to only 65 yards on 18 carries, and held Detroit to just 52 yards while building a 13-0 halftime lead. Then Alstott capped the Buccaneers' opening drive of the second half with his touchdown run for a 20-0 lead.

Tampa Bay, which was playing its first postseason game since 1982—after 14 consecutive losing seasons—never was threatened after that.

New York Nightmare

Eddie Murray's 24-yard field goal with 10 seconds left capped an improbable comeback that lifted the Vikings to a stunning 23-22 victory over the Giants at Giants Stadium.

Minnesota, which snapped a six-game playoff losing streak, trailed 22-13 before Randall Cunningham teamed with Jake Reed on a 30-yard touchdown pass with 1:30 to play, pulling the Vikings within 22-20.

Minnesota's Chris Walsh recovered the ensuing onside kick, and the Vikings drove 56 yards to Murray's winning field goal. Cunningham's 21-yard pass to Cris Carter and Robert Smith's 16-yard run were the key plays.

Jake Reed

It was a bitter loss for the NFC East-champion Giants, who led by 16 points at halftime.

"This is probably the worst way to go out," New York quarterback Danny Kanell said. "You have to give them credit, but it feels like a bad dream."

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS (4)

national football league

A Stadium Club employee was recently quoted as saying, " let's try using cheaper foil and recycling last year's photos."

We'll miss him.

Sure, he was a nice guy, but he just didn't have the knowledge and passion of the rest of us. While we were adding a holographic logo to the best photography in the business, he was just adding. That's not what Stadium Club is all about. It's about making the best premium cards even better. It's about having a unique embossed design on the regular card and the best inserts: Printing Plates, Co-Signers double-autographed cards, One-of-a-Kind, Triumvirate laser cuts, Bowman's Best Previews, NFL Transactions and Never Crompromise. You get the idea. Try a pack. You'll see that the only numbers we're hung up on, are the ones on their way to Canton, Ohio.

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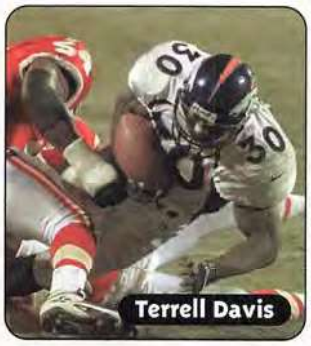
DIVISIONAL GAMES

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS


Terrell Davis

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Broncos Triumph

Terrell Davis rushed for 101 yards and a pair of 1-yard touchdowns, including the game winner 2:28 into the fourth quarter, as the Broncos beat Kansas City 14-10 at Arrowhead Stadium.

The decisive touchdown came three plays after Ed McCaffrey took John Elway's short pass and turned it into a 43-yard gain to the Chiefs' 1-yard line.

Kansas City had three possessions after that, the last starting at its 17 with 4:04 to play. But after Elvis Grbac marched his team to Denver's 20, his pass on fourth-and-2 was tipped away at the goal line by Darrien Gordon with 12 seconds left.

It was another disappointing postseason loss for Kansas City, which won an AFC-best 13 games during the regular season.

Turnover in the AFC

Quarterback Kordell Stewart ran 40 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter, and the Steelers' defense made it hold up for a 7-6 victory that ended visiting New England's reign as AFC champion.

The Patriots pulled within 1 point on 2 field goals by Adam Vinatieri, the last of which came from 46 yards with 12:16 to play.

But New England, playing without injured running back Curtis Martin, couldn't overcome 4 turnovers by quarterback Drew Bledsoe (2 fumbles and 2 interceptions), the most costly coming with 1:44 to play.

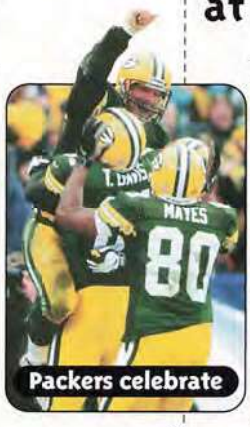
Kordell Stewart

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

After the Patriots stuffed Stewart for no gain on fourth-and-1 from New England's 1-yard line with 3:24 left, Bledsoe completed 6 of 7 passes to move his team to the 42. But Bledsoe fumbled on first down when he was sacked by Pittsburgh defensive end Mike Vrabel. Linebacker Jason Gildon recovered to secure the victory.

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Home, Sweet Home


Packers celebrate

RON VESELY

Dorsey Levens ran for a club-playoff-record 112 yards as Green Bay beat Tampa Bay 21-7 at Lambeau Field.

Brett Favre's 3-yard touchdown pass to tight end Mark Chmura 9:24 into the first quarter gave the Packers a lead they would not relinquish. Levens's 2-yard touchdown run 1:23 into the fourth quarter put the game out of reach.

Green Bay continued its dominance at home. The Packers, who won their twenty-seventh consecutive game at Lambeau Field, never have lost a postseason game there.

Tampa Bay moved the ball inside Green Bay's 30-yard line on three consecutive possessions in the first half, but failed to score. The Buccaneers had a field-goal try blocked, a fake field-goal attempt stopped, and another field-goal try ruined by a bad snap.

49ers Young at Heart

The 49ers forged a 13-3 regular-season record behind a powerful running game and the NFL's top-ranked defense. But when they opened the playoffs at home with a 38-22 victory over Minnesota, they showed their fortunes still are centered around Steve Young.

San Francisco's veteran quarterback completed 21 of 30 passes for 224 yards and a touchdown and scrambled 37 yards to key the victory. His passes set up 1-yard touchdown runs by Terry Kirby (twice) and William Floyd.

With the score tied 7-7 midway through the second quarter, the 49ers broke open the game in rapid fashion. Young's 12-yard pass to J.J. Stokes and a 28-yard pass interference penalty led to the first of Kirby's touchdown runs as San Francisco took the lead for good 6:28 before halftime. Just 47 seconds later, linebacker Ken Norton, Jr. returned an interception 23 yards for a touchdown and a 21-7 lead.

Terry Kirby

KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

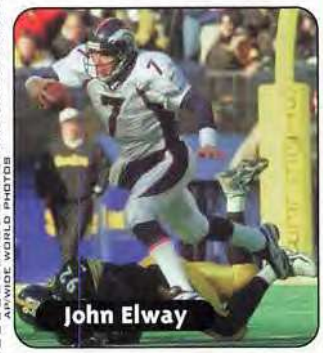
AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Happy Anniversary

John Elway's 2 touchdown passes in the final two minutes of the first half carried Denver to a 24-21 victory over Pittsburgh in the AFC Championship Game at Three Rivers Stadium.

The victory came 11 years to the day after Elway led the Broncos to Super Bowl XXI by engineering "The Drive" in the 1986 AFC title game.

The Broncos qualified for their fifth Super Bowl by limiting the damage from their early mistakes—including an interception of their veteran quarterback on the game's second play—then capitalizing on the Steelers' miscues.


AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS
John Elway

Pittsburgh led 14-10 when Kordell Stewart was intercepted in the end zone by the Broncos' Ray Crockett with 4:40 left in the first half.

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS
Mike Shanahan

Just 2:53 later, Denver took the lead for good on Elway's 15-yard touchdown pass to Howard Griffith. Elway completed all 4 of his passes for 57 yards on the 80-yard drive, and benefited from a 22-yard pass-interference penalty one play before the touchdown.

After a Steelers' punt, the Broncos got the ball back at their 46 with 43 seconds left. This time, a 34-yard pass-interference penalty moved the ball to Pittsburgh's 20. Elway's 1-yard touchdown pass to Ed McCaffrey 13 seconds before intermission gave Denver a 10-point lead.

The Broncos forced turnovers on the Steelers' next three possessions, including an end-zone interception by linebacker Allen Aldridge after Pittsburgh reached the 5-yard line on the opening drive of the second half.

Stewart's 14-yard touchdown pass to Charles Johnson with 2:46 left pulled Pittsburgh within 3 points.

But Denver ran out the clock after that. Elway completed 18 of 31 passes for 210 yards, and Terrell Davis ran for 139 yards.

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

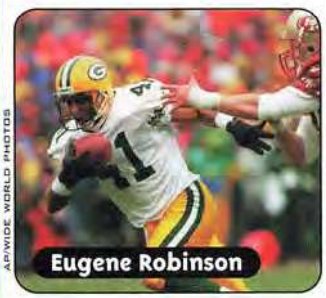
Reign Men

Wide receiver Antonio Freeman caught a 27-yard touchdown pass and had a 40-yard reception to set up a field goal, keying the Packers' 23-10 victory over the 49ers in the NFC Championship Game, played in the rain and mud at 3Com Park.

JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT
Antonio Freeman

Green Bay earned a return trip to the Super Bowl and the right to defend the NFL championship it won with a 35-21 victory over New England in Super Bowl XXXI last January.

The Packers, who eliminated San Francisco from the playoffs for the third consecutive year, scored all the points they needed in the first half on a pair of field goals by Ryan Longwell and Brett Favre's touchdown pass to Freeman.


AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS
Eugene Robinson

The 49ers trailed only 3-0 and were driving when Steve Young's pass from the Packers' 28-yard line was intercepted by Eugene Robinson at the Packers' 14. Robinson returned it 58 yards to the 49ers' 28, and two plays later, Favre and Freeman teamed on their touchdown pass.

Longwell's 43-yard field goal as time ran out in the first half gave Green Bay a 13-3 advantage at intermission, and the Packers' defense made the lead stand.

San Francisco managed only 44 total yards in the second half and failed to cross midfield after Gary Anderson's 28-yard field goal 58 seconds before halftime. The 49ers' lone touchdown came on Chuck Levy's 95-yard kickoff return after Green Bay had built a 23-3 lead.

Freeman finished with 107 yards on 4 catches, all of them coming in the decisive first half. Favre passed for 222 yards and Dorsey Levens rushed for a club-playoff-record 114 yards, including a fourth-quarter touchdown. He was the first player to rush for more than 100 yards against San Francisco's top-rated defense this season.

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AFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Lg.	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Mark Brunell, Jacksonville	435	264	60.7	3,281	7.54	18	4.1	75	7	1.6	91.2
Jeff George, Oakland	521	290	55.7	3,917	7.52	29	5.6	76	9	1.7	91.2
Drew Bledsoe, New England	522	314	60.2	3,706	7.10	28	5.4	76	15	2.9	87.7
John Elway, Denver	502	280	55.8	3,635	7.24	27	5.4	78	11	2.2	87.5
Jim Harbaugh, Indianapolis	309	189	61.2	2,060	6.67	10	3.2	58	4	1.3	86.2
Warren Moon, Seattle	528	313	59.3	3,678	6.97	25	4.7	60t	16	3.0	83.7
Dan Marino, Miami	548	319	58.2	3,780	6.90	16	2.9	55	11	2.0	80.7
Neil O'Donnell, NY Jets	460	259	56.3	2,796	6.08	17	3.7	70	7	1.5	80.3
Elvis Grbac, Kansas City	314	179	57.0	1,943	6.19	11	3.5	55t	6	1.9	79.1
Jeff Blake, Cincinnati	317	184	58.0	2,125	6.70	8	2.5	50t	7	2.2	77.6

NFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Lg.	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Steve Young, San Francisco	356	241	67.7	3,029	8.51	19	5.3	82	6	1.7	104.7
Chris Chandler, Atlanta	342	202	59.1	2,692	7.87	20	5.8	56	7	2.0	95.1
Brett Favre, Green Bay	513	304	59.3	3,867	7.54	35	6.8	74	16	3.1	92.6
Brad Johnson, Minnesota	452	275	60.8	3,036	6.72	20	4.4	56	12	2.7	84.5
Bobby Hoying, Philadelphia	225	128	56.9	1,573	6.99	11	4.9	72t	6	2.7	83.8
Trent Dilfer, Tampa Bay	386	217	56.2	2,555	6.62	21	5.4	59t	11	2.8	82.8
Scott Mitchell, Detroit	509	293	57.6	3,484	6.84	19	3.7	79	14	2.8	79.6
Troy Aikman, Dallas	518	292	56.4	3,283	6.34	19	3.7	64t	12	2.3	78.0
Erik Kramer, Chicago	477	275	57.7	3,011	6.31	14	2.9	78t	14	2.9	74.0
Ty Detmer, Philadelphia	244	134	54.9	1,567	6.42	7	2.9	57	6	2.5	73.9

AFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Terrell Davis, Denver	369	1,750	4.7	50t	15
Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh	375	1,665	4.4	34	7
Eddie George, Tennessee	357	1,399	3.9	30	6
Napoleon Kaufman, Oakland	272	1,294	4.8	83t	6
Curtis Martin, New England	274	1,160	4.2	70t	4
Corey Dillon, Cincinnati	233	1,129	4.8	71t	10
Adrian Murrell, NY Jets	300	1,086	3.6	43t	7
Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis	264	1,054	4.0	45	7
Gary Brown, San Diego	253	945	3.7	32	4
Karim Abdul-Jabbar, Miami	283	892	3.2	22	15

NFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Barry Sanders, Detroit	335	2,053	6.1	82t	11
Dorsey Levens, Green Bay	329	1,435	4.4	52t	7
Robert Smith, Minnesota	232	1,266	5.5	78t	6
Ricky Watters, Philadelphia	285	1,110	3.9	28	7
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	261	1,074	4.1	44	4
Raymont Harris, Chicago	275	1,033	3.8	68t	10
Garrison Hearst, San Francisco	234	1,019	4.4	51	4
Jamal Anderson, Atlanta	290	1,002	3.5	39	7
Warrick Dunn, Tampa Bay	224	978	4.4	76	4
Fred Lane, Carolina	182	809	4.4	50	7

AFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush.	Rec.	Ret.	Pts.
Karim Abdul-Jabbar, Miami	16	15	1	0	96
Terrell Davis, Denver	15	15	0	0	96
Joey Galloway, Seattle	12	0	12	0	72
James Jett, Oakland	12	0	12	0	72
Rod Smith, Denver	12	0	12	0	72
Marcus Allen, Kansas City	11	11	0	0	66
Kordell Stewart, Pittsburgh	11	11	0	0	66
Corey Dillon, Cincinnati	10	10	0	0	60
Derrick Alexander, Baltimore	9	0	9	0	54
Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh	9	7	2	0	54
Natrone Means, Jacksonville	9	9	0	0	54
James Stewart, Jacksonville	9	8	1	0	54

NFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush.	Rec.	Ret.	Pts.
Barry Sanders, Detroit	14	11	3	0	84
Cris Carter, Minnesota	13	0	13	0	84
Dorsey Levens, Green Bay	12	7	5	0	74
Antonio Freeman, Green Bay	12	0	12	0	72
Mike Alstott, Tampa Bay	10	7	3	0	60
Jamal Anderson, Atlanta	10	7	3	0	60
Raymont Harris, Chicago	10	10	0	0	60
Bert Emanuel, Atlanta	9	0	9	0	54
Michael Irvin, Dallas	9	0	9	0	54
Terry Kirby, San Francisco	8	6	1	1	52

AFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg.	Pts.
Mike Hollis, Jacksonville	41/41	31/36	52	134
Jason Elam, Denver	46/46	26/36	53	124
John Hall, NY Jets	36/36	28/41	55	120
Cary Blanchard, Indianapolis	21/21	32/41	50	117
Olindo Mare, Miami	33/33	28/36	50	117
Adam Vinatieri, New England	40/40	25/29	52	115
Al Del Greco, Tennessee	32/32	27/35	52	113
Pete Stoyanovich, Kansas City	35/36	26/27	54	113
Matt Stover, Baltimore	32/32	26/34	49	110
Greg Davis, Min.-S.D.	31/32	26/34	45	109

NFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg.	Pts.
Richie Cunningham, Dallas	24/24	34/37	53	126
Gary Anderson, San Francisco	38/38	29/36	51	125
Ryan Longwell, Green Bay	48/48	24/30	50	120
Jason Hanson, Detroit	39/40	26/29	55	117
Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis	32/32	25/37	52	107
Morten Andersen, Atlanta	35/35	23/27	55	104
Chris Boniol, Philadelphia	33/33	22/31	49	99
Brad Daluiso, NY Giants	27/29	22/32	52	93
Doug Brien, New Orleans	22/22	23/27	53	91
John Kasay, Carolina	25/25	22/26	54	91

AFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Tim Brown, Oakland	104	1,408	13.5	59t	5
Keenan McCardell, Jacksonville	85	1,164	13.7	60	5
Jimmy Smith, Jacksonville	82	1,324	16.1	75	4
Yancey Thigpen, Pittsburgh	79	1,398	17.7	69t	7
O.J. McDuffie, Miami	76	943	12.4	55	1
Marvin Harrison, Indianapolis	73	866	11.9	44	6
Shannon Sharpe, Denver	72	1,107	15.4	68t	3
Andre Rison, Kansas City	72	1,092	15.2	45	7
Joey Galloway, Seattle	72	1,049	14.6	53t	12
Rod Smith, Denver	70	1,180	16.9	78	12
Keyshawn Johnson, NY Jets	70	963	13.8	39	5

NFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Herman Moore, Detroit	104	1,293	12.4	79	8
Rob Moore, Arizona	97	1,584	16.3	47t	8
Cris Carter, Minnesota	89	1,069	12.0	43	13
Irving Fryar, Philadelphia	86	1,316	15.3	72t	6
Antonio Freeman, Green Bay	81	1,243	15.3	58t	12
Johnnie Morton, Detroit	80	1,057	13.2	73t	6
Michael Irvin, Dallas	75	1,180	15.7	55	9
Chris Sanders, Arizona	75	1,017	13.6	70t	4
Jake Reed, Minnesota	68	1,138	16.7	56	6
Bert Emanuel, Atlanta	65	991	15.2	56	9

AFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No.	Yds.	Lg.	Avg.
Tom Tupa, New England	78	3,569	73	45.8
Chris Gardocki, Indianapolis	67	3,034	72	45.3
Leo Araguz, Oakland	93	4,189	63	45.0
Bryan Barker, Jacksonville	66	2,964	64	44.9
Darren Bennett, San Diego	89	3,972	66	44.6
Tom Rouen, Denver	60	2,598	57	43.3
John Kidd, Miami	52	2,247	58	43.2
Brain Hansen, NY Jets	71	3,068	58	43.2
Lee Johnson, Cincinnati	81	3,471	66	42.9
Greg Montgomery, Baltimore	83	3,540	60	42.7

NFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No.	Yds.	Lg.	Avg.
Mark Royals, New Orleans	88	4,038	66	45.9
Matt Turk, Washington	84	3,788	62	45.1
Craig Hentrich, Green Bay	75	3,378	65	45.0
Jeff Feagles, Arizona	91	4,028	62	44.3
Mitch Berger, Minnesota	73	3,133	65	42.9
Mike Horan, St. Louis	53	2,272	60	42.9
Todd Sauerbrun, Chicago	95	4,059	67	42.7
John Jett, Detroit	84	3,576	60	42.6
Ken Walter, Carolina	85	3,604	62	42.4
Sean Landeta, Tampa Bay	54	2,274	74	42.1

AFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Jermaine Lewis, Baltimore	28	437	15.0	89t	2
Darrien Gordon, Denver	40	543	13.6	94t	3
Leon Johnson, NY Jets	51	619	12.1	66t	1
Reggie Barlow, Jacksonville	36	412	11.4	52	0
Tamarick Vanover, Kansas City	35	383	10.9	82t	1
Eric Metcalf, San Diego	45	489	10.9	85t	3
Charles Jordan, Miami	26	273	10.5	38	0
David Meggett, New England	45	467	10.4	47	0
Jeff Burris, Buffalo	21	198	9.4	32	0
Desmond Howard, Oakland	27	210	7.8	31	0

NFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
David Palmer, Minnesota	34	444	13.1	57	0
Karl Williams, Tampa Bay	46	597	13.0	63	1
Deion Sanders, Dallas	33	407	12.3	83t	1
Brian Mitchell, Washington	38	442	11.6	63t	1
Kevin Williams, Arizona	40	462	11.6	50	0
I. Uwaezuoke, San Francisco	34	373	11.0	36	0
Eric Guliford, New Orleans	47	498	10.6	32	0
Bill Schroeder, Green Bay	33	342	10.4	46	0
Amani Toomer, NY Giants	47	455	9.7	53t	1
Glyn Milburn, Detroit	47	433	9.2	40	0

AFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Aaron Glenn, NY Jets	28	741	26.5	96t	1
Tamarick Vanover, Kansas City	50	1,283	25.7	94t	1
David Meggett, New England	33	816	24.7	61	0
Will Blackwell, Pittsburgh	32	791	24.7	97t	1
Irving Spikes, Miami	24	565	23.5	48	0
Vaughn Hebron, Denver	43	1,009	23.5	46	0
Eric Bieniemy, Cincinnati	34	789	23.2	102t	1
Jermaine Lewis, Baltimore	41	905	22.1	51	0
Aaron Bailey, Indianapolis	55	1,206	21.9	61	0
Desmond Howard, Oakland	61	1,318	21.6	45	0

NFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Michael Bates, Carolina	47	1,281	27.3	56	0
Eric Guliford, New Orleans	43	1,128	26.2	102t	1
Kevin Williams, Arizona	59	1,458	24.7	63	0
Byron Hanspard, Atlanta	40	987	24.7	99t	2
Duce Staley, Philadelphia	47	1,139	24.2	57	0
Glyn Milburn, Detroit	55	1,315	23.9	69	0
Reidel Anthony, Tampa Bay	25	592	23.7	51	0
Tyrone Hughes, Chicago	43	1,008	23.4	58	0
Bill Schroeder, Green Bay	24	562	23.4	40	0
Herschel Walker, Dallas	50	1,167	23.3	49	0

AFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int.	Yds.	Lg.	TD
Mark McMillian, Kansas City	8	274	87t	3
Darryl Williams, Seattle	8	172	44t	1
Otis Smith, NY Jets	6	158	51t	3
Willie Clay, New England	6	109	53t	1
Marcus Robertson, Tennessee	5	127	48	0
Darryll Lewis, Tennessee	5	115	47t	1
Deon Figures, Jacksonville	5	48	32	0

NFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int.	Yds.	Lg.	TD
Ryan McNeil, St. Louis	9	127	75t	1
Keith Lyle, St. Louis	8	102	39	0
Merton Hanks, San Francisco	6	103	55t	1
Aeneas Williams, Arizona	6	95	42t	2
Jason Sehorn, NY Giants	6	74	41	1
Tito Wooten, NY Giants	5	146	61t	1
Mark Carrier, Detroit	5	94	66	0
Sammy Knight, New Orleans	5	75	39	0
Phillippi Sparks, NY Giants	5	72	68	0
Ray Buchanan, Atlanta	5	49	31	0
Walt Harris, Chicago	5	30	12	0
Eric Davis, Carolina	5	25	17	0
Donnie Abraham, Tampa Bay	5	16	16	0
Tyronne Drakeford, San Francisco	5	15	15	0
LeRoy Butler, Green Bay	5	4	2	0

American Football Conference

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
*Tim Brown, Oakland
*Yancey Thigpen, Pittsburgh
Andre Rison, Kansas City
Jimmy Smith, Jacksonville

Tackles
*Tony Boselli, Jacksonville
*Jonathan Ogden, Baltimore
Bruce Armstrong, New England

Guards
*Bruce Matthews, Tennessee
*Will Shields, Kansas City
Ruben Brown, Buffalo

Centers
*Dermontti Dawson, Pittsburgh
Tom Nalen, Denver

Tight Ends
*Shannon Sharpe, Denver
Ben Coates, New England

Quarterbacks
*John Elway, Denver
Mark Brunell, Jacksonville
Drew Bledsoe, New England

Running Backs
*Terrell Davis, Denver
*Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh
Eddie George, Tennessee

Fullback
Kimble Anders, Kansas City

MITCHELL B. REIBEL

DEFENSE

Ends
*Bruce Smith, Buffalo
*Neil Smith, Denver
Michael Sinclair, Seattle

Defensive Linemen
*Ted Washington, Buffalo
*Joel Steed, Pittsburgh
Chester McGlockton, Oakland

Outside Linebackers
*Bryce Paup, Buffalo
*Chris Slade, New England
Derrick Thomas, Kansas City

Inside Linebackers
*Levon Kirkland, Pittsburgh
Junior Seau, San Diego

Cornerbacks
*Aaron Glenn, N.Y. Jets
*Dale Carter, Kansas City
James Hasty, Kansas City

Strong Safeties
*Carnell Lake, Pittsburgh
Blaine Bishop, Tennessee

Free Safety
*Darryl Williams, Seattle

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Bryan Barker, Jacksonville

Kicker
Mike Hollis, Jacksonville

Kick Returner
Eric Metcalf, San Diego

Special Teams Player
Larry Whigham, New England

National Football Conference

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
*Herman Moore, Detroit
*Cris Carter, Minnesota
Rob Moore, Arizona
Irving Fryar, Philadelphia

Tackles
*William Roaf, New Orleans
*Todd Steussie, Minnesota
Erik Williams, Dallas

Guards
*Larry Allen, Dallas
*Randall McDaniel, Minnesota
Kevin Gogan, San Francisco

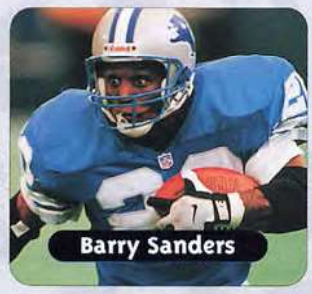
Centers
*Kevin Glover, Detroit
Tony Mayberry, Tampa Bay

Tight Ends
*Wesley Walls, Carolina
Mark Chmura, Green Bay

Quarterbacks
*Brett Favre, Green Bay
Steve Young, San Francisco
Trent Dilfer, Tampa Bay

Running Backs
*Barry Sanders, Detroit
*Dorsey Levens, Green Bay
Warrick Dunn, Tampa Bay

Fullback
Mike Alstott, Tampa Bay



ROBERT SKEOCH

DEFENSE

Ends
*Reggie White, Green Bay
*Michael Strahan, N.Y. Giants
Chris Doleman, San Francisco

Defensive Linemen
*Dana Stubblefield, San Francisco
*John Randle, Minnesota
Warren Sapp, Tampa Bay

Outside Linebackers
*Jessie Armstead, N.Y. Giants
*Ken Harvey, Washington
Derrick Brooks, Tampa Bay

Inside Linebackers
*Hardy Nickerson, Tampa Bay
Jessie Tuggle, Atlanta

Cornerbacks
*Aeneas Williams, Arizona
*Deion Sanders, Dallas
Darrell Green, Washington

Strong Safeties
*LeRoy Butler, Green Bay
Darren Woodson, Dallas

Free Safety
*Merton Hanks, San Francisco

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Matt Turk, Washington

Kicker
Jason Hanson, Detroit

Kick Returner
Michael Bates, Carolina

Special Teams Player
Travis Jervey, Green Bay

**denotes starter*

Lending a Helping Hand For 25 Years

Sometimes, all it takes is a helping hand. That's where NFL Charities comes in. As one of the most important outreach programs of the National Football League, NFL Charities has aided people and organizations all over America.

Since its founding in 1973 by former NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, NFL Charities has distributed more than $27 million to worthy recipients in four main areas: education, physical fitness, youth football development, and player health and safety. The work of NFL Charities continues to be one of the proudest accomplishments of the NFL and its member clubs.

As the NFL concludes its seventy-eighth season, NFL Charities will continue to play a leading role in communities across the nation, lending a hand whenever it can.

NFL CHARITIES
25 YEARS
A Tradition of Caring

NFL CHARITIES...MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

national football conference

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Aug. 31	at Cincinnati	21-24
Sept. 7	DALLAS	*25-22
Sept. 14	at Washington	*13-19
Sept. 21	Open Date	
Sept. 28	at Tampa Bay	18-19
Oct. 5	MINNESOTA	19-20
Oct. 12	NEW YORK GIANTS	13-27
Oct. 19	at Philadelphia	*10-13
Oct. 26	TENNESSEE	14-41
Nov. 2	PHILADELPHIA	31-21
Nov. 9	at Dallas	6-24
Nov. 16	at New York Giants	10-19
Nov. 23	at Baltimore	16-13
Nov. 30	PITTSBURGH	*20-26
Dec. 7	WASHINGTON	28-38
Dec. 14	at New Orleans	10-27
Dec. 21	ATLANTA	29-26

ATLANTA FALCONS

Aug. 31	at Detroit	17-28
Sept. 7	CAROLINA	6-9
Sept. 14	OAKLAND	31-36
Sept. 21	at San Francisco	7-34
Sept. 28	DENVER	21-29
Oct. 5	Open Date	
Oct. 12	at New Orleans	23-17
Oct. 19	SAN FRANCISCO	28-35
Oct. 26	at Carolina	12-21
Nov. 2	ST. LOUIS	34-31
Nov. 9	TAMPA BAY	10-31
Nov. 16	at St. Louis	27-21
Nov. 23	NEW ORLEANS	20-3
Nov. 30	at Seattle	24-17
Dec. 7	at San Diego	14-3
Dec. 14	PHILADELPHIA	20-17
Dec. 21	at Arizona	26-29

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Aug. 31	WASHINGTON	10-24
Sept. 7	at Atlanta	9-6
Sept. 14	at San Diego	26-7
Sept. 21	KANSAS CITY	14-35
Sept. 29	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	21-34
Oct. 5	Open Date	
Oct. 12	at Minnesota	14-21
Oct. 19	at New Orleans	13-0
Oct. 26	ATLANTA	21-12
Nov. 2	OAKLAND	38-14
Nov. 9	at Denver	0-34
Nov. 16	at San Francisco	19-27
Nov. 23	at St. Louis	16-10
Nov. 30	NEW ORLEANS	13-16
Dec. 8	at Dallas (Mon.)	23-13
Dec. 14	GREEN BAY	10-31
Dec. 20	ST. LOUIS (Sat.)	18-30

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 1	at Green Bay (Mon.)	24-38
Sept. 7	MINNESOTA	24-27
Sept. 14	DETROIT	7-32
Sept. 21	at New England	3-31
Sept. 28	at Dallas	3-27
Oct. 5	NEW ORLEANS	17-20
Oct. 12	GREEN BAY	23-24
Oct. 19	Open Date	
Oct. 27	at Miami (Mon.)	*36-33
Nov. 2	WASHINGTON	8-31
Nov. 9	at Minnesota	22-29
Nov. 16	NEW YORK JETS	15-23
Nov. 23	TAMPA BAY	13-7
Nov. 27	at Detroit (Thurs.)	20-55
Dec. 7	BUFFALO	20-3
Dec. 14	at St. Louis	13-10
Dec. 21	at Tampa Bay	15-31

DALLAS COWBOYS

Aug. 31	at Pittsburgh	37-7
Sept. 7	at Arizona	*22-25
Sept. 15	PHILADELPHIA (Mon.)	21-20
Sept. 21	Open Date	
Sept. 28	CHICAGO	27-3
Oct. 5	at New York Giants	17-20
Oct. 13	at Washington (Mon.)	16-21
Oct. 19	JACKSONVILLE	26-22
Oct. 26	at Philadelphia	12-13
Nov. 2	at San Francisco	10-17
Nov. 9	ARIZONA	24-6
Nov. 16	WASHINGTON	17-14
Nov. 23	at Green Bay	17-45
Nov. 27	TENNESSEE (Thurs.)	14-27
Dec. 8	CAROLINA (Mon.)	13-23
Dec. 14	at Cincinnati	24-31
Dec. 21	NEW YORK GIANTS	7-20

DETROIT LIONS

Aug. 31	ATLANTA	28-17
Sept. 7	TAMPA BAY	17-24
Sept. 14	at Chicago	32-7
Sept. 21	at New Orleans	17-35
Sept. 28	GREEN BAY	26-15
Oct. 5	at Buffalo	13-22
Oct. 12	at Tampa Bay	27-9
Oct. 19	NEW YORK GIANTS	*20-26
Oct. 26	Open Date	
Nov. 2	at Green Bay	10-20
Nov. 9	at Washington	7-30
Nov. 16	MINNESOTA	38-15
Nov. 23	INDIANAPOLIS	32-10
Nov. 27	CHICAGO (Thurs.)	55-20
Dec. 7	at Miami	30-33
Dec. 14	at Minnesota	14-13
Dec. 21	NEW YORK JETS	13-10

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 1	CHICAGO (Mon.)	38-24
Sept. 7	at Philadelphia	9-10
Sept. 14	MIAMI	23-18
Sept. 21	MINNESOTA	38-32
Sept. 28	at Detroit	15-26
Oct. 5	TAMPA BAY	21-16
Oct. 12	at Chicago	24-23
Oct. 19	Open Date	
Oct. 27	at New England (Mon.)	28-10
Nov. 2	DETROIT	20-10
Nov. 9	ST. LOUIS	17-7
Nov. 16	at Indianapolis	38-41
Nov. 23	DALLAS	45-17
Dec. 1	at Minnesota (Mon.)	27-11
Dec. 7	at Tampa Bay	17-6
Dec. 14	at Carolina	31-10
Dec. 20	BUFFALO (Sat.)	31-21

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Aug. 31	at Buffalo	34-13
Sept. 7	at Chicago	27-24
Sept. 14	TAMPA BAY	14-28
Sept. 21	at Green Bay	32-38
Sept. 28	PHILADELPHIA	28-19
Oct. 5	at Arizona	20-19
Oct. 12	CAROLINA	21-14
Oct. 19	Open Date	
Oct. 26	at Tampa Bay	10-6
Nov. 2	NEW ENGLAND	23-18
Nov. 9	CHICAGO	29-22
Nov. 16	at Detroit	15-38
Nov. 23	at New York Jets	21-23
Dec. 1	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	11-27
Dec. 7	at San Francisco	17-28
Dec. 14	DETROIT	13-14
Dec. 21	INDIANAPOLIS	39-28

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Aug. 31	at St. Louis	24-38
Sept. 7	SAN DIEGO	6-20
Sept. 14	at San Francisco	7-33
Sept. 21	DETROIT	35-17
Sept. 28	at New York Giants	9-14
Oct. 5	at Chicago	20-17
Oct. 12	ATLANTA	17-23
Oct. 19	CAROLINA	0-13
Oct. 26	SAN FRANCISCO	0-23
Nov. 2	Open Date	
Nov. 9	at Oakland	13-10
Nov. 16	SEATTLE	*20-17
Nov. 23	at Atlanta	3-20
Nov. 30	at Carolina	16-13
Dec. 7	ST. LOUIS	27-34
Dec. 14	ARIZONA	27-10
Dec. 21	at Kansas City	13-25

NEW YORK GIANTS

Aug. 31	PHILADELPHIA	31-17
Sept. 7	at Jacksonville	13-40
Sept. 14	BALTIMORE	23-24
Sept. 21	at St. Louis	3-13
Sept. 28	NEW ORLEANS	14-9
Oct. 5	DALLAS	20-17
Oct. 12	at Arizona	27-13
Oct. 19	at Detroit	*26-20
Oct. 26	CINCINNATI	29-27
Nov. 2	Open Date	
Nov. 9	at Tennessee	6-10
Nov. 16	ARIZONA	19-10
Nov. 23	at Washington	*7-7
Nov. 30	TAMPA BAY	8-20
Dec. 7	at Philadelphia	31-21
Dec. 13	WASHINGTON (Sat.)	30-10
Dec. 21	at Dallas	20-7

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Aug. 31	at New York Giants	17-31
Sept. 7	GREEN BAY	10-9
Sept. 15	at Dallas (Mon.)	20-21
Sept. 21	Open Date	
Sept. 28	at Minnesota	19-28
Oct. 5	WASHINGTON	24-10
Oct. 12	at Jacksonville	21-38
Oct. 19	ARIZONA	*13-10
Oct. 26	DALLAS	13-12
Nov. 2	at Arizona	21-31
Nov. 10	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	12-24
Nov. 16	at Baltimore	*10-10
Nov. 23	PITTSBURGH	23-20
Nov. 30	CINCINNATI	44-42
Dec. 7	NEW YORK GIANTS	21-31
Dec. 14	at Atlanta	17-20
Dec. 21	at Washington	32-35

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Aug. 31	NEW ORLEANS	38-24
Sept. 7	SAN FRANCISCO	12-15
Sept. 14	at Denver	14-35
Sept. 21	NEW YORK GIANTS	13-3
Sept. 28	at Oakland	17-35
Oct. 5	Open Date	
Oct. 12	at San Francisco	10-30
Oct. 19	SEATTLE	9-17
Oct. 26	KANSAS CITY	20-28
Nov. 2	at Atlanta	31-34
Nov. 9	at Green Bay	7-17
Nov. 16	ATLANTA	21-27
Nov. 23	CAROLINA	10-16
Nov. 30	at Washington	23-20
Dec. 7	at New Orleans	34-27
Dec. 14	CHICAGO	10-13
Dec. 20	at Carolina (Sat.)	30-18

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Aug. 31	at Tampa Bay	6-13
Sept. 7	at St. Louis	15-12
Sept. 14	NEW ORLEANS	33-7
Sept. 21	ATLANTA	34-7
Sept. 29	at Carolina (Mon.)	34-21
Oct. 5	Open Date	
Oct. 12	ST. LOUIS	30-10
Oct. 19	at Atlanta	35-28
Oct. 26	at New Orleans	23-0
Nov. 2	DALLAS	17-10
Nov. 10	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	24-12
Nov. 16	CAROLINA	27-19
Nov. 23	SAN DIEGO	17-10
Nov. 30	at Kansas City	9-44
Dec. 7	MINNESOTA	28-17
Dec. 15	DENVER (Mon.)	34-17
Dec. 21	at Seattle	9-38

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Aug. 31	SAN FRANCISCO	13-6
Sept. 7	at Detroit	24-17
Sept. 14	at Minnesota	28-14
Sept. 21	MIAMI	31-21
Sept. 28	ARIZONA	19-18
Oct. 5	at Green Bay	16-21
Oct. 12	DETROIT	9-27
Oct. 19	Open Date	
Oct. 26	MINNESOTA	6-10
Nov. 2	at Indianapolis	31-28
Nov. 9	at Atlanta	31-10
Nov. 16	NEW ENGLAND	27-7
Nov. 23	at Chicago	7-13
Nov. 30	at New York Giants	20-8
Dec. 7	GREEN BAY	6-17
Dec. 14	at New York Jets	0-31
Dec. 21	CHICAGO	31-15

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Aug. 31	at Carolina	24-10
Sept. 7	at Pittsburgh	13-14
Sept. 14	ARIZONA	*19-13
Sept. 21	Open Date	
Sept. 28	JACKSONVILLE	24-12
Oct. 5	at Philadelphia	10-24
Oct. 13	DALLAS (Mon.)	21-16
Oct. 19	at Tennessee	14-28
Oct. 26	BALTIMORE	17-20
Nov. 2	at Chicago	31-8
Nov. 9	DETROIT	30-7
Nov. 16	at Dallas	14-17
Nov. 23	NEW YORK GIANTS	*7-7
Nov. 30	ST. LOUIS	20-23
Dec. 7	at Arizona	38-28
Dec. 13	at New York Giants (Sat.)	10-30
Dec. 21	PHILADELPHIA	35-32

1997 STANDINGS

EASTERN	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS.	OP
N.Y. Giants	10	5	1	.656	307	265
Washington	8	7	1	.531	327	289
Philadelphia	6	9	1	.406	317	372
Dallas	6	10	0	.375	304	314
Arizona	4	12	0	.250	283	379
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PTS.**	**OP**
Green Bay	13	3	0	.813	422	282
Tampa Bay	10	6	0	.625	299	263
Detroit	9	7	0	.563	379	306
Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	354	359
Chicago	4	12	0	.250	263	421
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PTS.**	**OP**
San Francisco	13	3	0	.813	375	265
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	265	314
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	320	361
New Orleans	6	10	0	.375	237	327
St. Louis	5	11	0	.313	299	359

* Overtime

FOR DAVE BOSS

Labors of Love: *Dave Boss launched a proud tradition with the creation of the game program for Super Bowl I (above), and he received a small tribute years later when his image (top right next to red cap: "Need 2") was among those included in Merv Corning's theme art for Super Bowl XXV.*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

For me, the risk was mountainous. After all, the *Los Angeles Times* would be there forever. Who knew about the longevity of Creative Services? Yet somehow the decision was easy, a slam dunk to borrow another sport's metaphor.

The decision was easy because of Dave Boss.

My life has been blessed with a lot of truly special people, but only a very few are down in the front-row seats. Dave Boss is there, of course, and he has been there from the day I met him in the summer of 1969, when he gave me a free-lance writing assignment.

So, I joined Dave and NFL Properties, just before Christmas in 1970, and, at Super Bowl V in Miami, launched a streak of Super Bowls that reaches 28 this year in San Diego. Of couse, Dave began attending Super Bowls at I, a streak that hit 29 until he ended it in Phoenix two years ago. "It was time," he says.

A true renaissance man, Dave also is a photographer. For all of those 29 Super Bowls, he roamed the sidelines with a camera around his neck, just as he did for all Rams and Raiders games at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Mostly, Dave Boss loves the game of football. He loves experiencing it. He loves watching it. He loved being its messenger to the world.

His instincts for the visual depiction of the game were pure genius. He couldn't always tell you why something was or wasn't right. He just knew.

He could be stubborn, even hardheaded. But he also was magnanimous in his appreciation of the efforts of others.

For many years, we had lunch practically every business day, and we never failed to find something to talk about. In addition to football, we shared passions for books, magazines, newspapers, music, movies, other sports, and just about every form of culture.

He liked to laugh, and I liked to make him laugh. We talked about feelings. We talked about everything. It was a rare relationship between two men.

I learned a lot, and I think he learned a little, too.

And the products we produced spoke volumes. There were some 100 trade books in two decades. There was a national magazine called *PRO*! that lasted from 1981 to 1985 (*PRO*! had been the name of the game program in the seventies; when *PRO*! went national, the game program became *GameDay*). Our library shelves were stacked full of printed football words and pictures.

HIS INSTINCTS FOR THE VISUAL DEPICTION OF THE GAME WERE PURE GENIUS.

It has been 7½ years since Dave Boss and I worked together every day, and I still think of him all the time. He set a high standard for me then. He still does.

This Super Bowl program, the thirty-second produced by the Los Angeles office, is dedicated to him.

Dave Boss will not be at the thirty-second Super Bowl. For the third year in a row he will be watching the game on television at his home in Palos Verdes, California, a couple of hours up the freeway from San Diego.

But of course he will be here. His legacy always will be here.

As he said, *"Mostly, we just strived to do the best in everything we did."*

Thanks, Dave.

american football conference

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Aug. 31	JACKSONVILLE	27-28
Sept. 7	CINCINNATI	23-10
Sept. 14	at New York Giants	24-23
Sept. 21	at Tennessee	36-10
Sept. 28	at San Diego	17-21
Oct. 5	PITTSBURGH	34-42
Oct. 12	Open Date	
Oct. 19	MIAMI	13-24
Oct. 26	at Washington	20-17
Nov. 2	at New York Jets	*16-19
Nov. 9	at Pittsburgh	0-37
Nov. 16	PHILADELPHIA	*10-10
Nov. 23	ARIZONA	13-16
Nov. 30	at Jacksonville	27-29
Dec. 7	SEATTLE	31-24
Dec. 14	TENNESSEE	21-19
Dec. 21	at Cincinnati	14-16

BUFFALO BILLS

Aug. 31	MINNESOTA	13-34
Sept. 7	at New York Jets	28-22
Sept. 14	at Kansas City	16-22
Sept. 21	INDIANAPOLIS	37-35
Sept. 28	Open Date	
Oct. 5	DETROIT	22-13
Oct. 12	at New England	6-33
Oct. 20	at Indianapolis (Mon.)	9-6
Oct. 26	DENVER	*20-23
Nov. 2	MIAMI	9-6
Nov. 9	NEW ENGLAND	10-31
Nov. 17	at Miami (Mon.)	13-30
Nov. 23	at Tennessee	14-31
Nov. 30	NEW YORK JETS	20-10
Dec. 7	at Chicago	3-20
Dec. 14	JACKSONVILLE	14-20
Dec. 20	at Green Bay (Sat.)	21-31

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Aug. 31	ARIZONA	24-21
Sept. 7	at Baltimore	10-23
Sept. 14	Open Date	
Sept. 21	at Denver	20-38
Sept. 28	NEW YORK JETS	14-31
Oct. 5	at Jacksonville	13-21
Oct. 12	at Tennessee	7-30
Oct. 19	PITTSBURGH	10-26
Oct. 26	at New York Giants	27-29
Nov. 2	SAN DIEGO	38-31
Nov. 9	at Indianapolis	28-13
Nov. 16	at Pittsburgh	3-20
Nov. 23	JACKSONVILLE	31-26
Nov. 30	at Philadelphia	42-44
Dec. 4	TENNESSEE (Thurs.)	41-14
Dec. 14	DALLAS	31-24
Dec. 21	BALTIMORE	16-14

DENVER BRONCOS

Aug. 31	KANSAS CITY	19-3
Sept. 7	at Seattle	35-14
Sept. 14	ST. LOUIS	35-14
Sept. 21	CINCINNATI	38-20
Sept. 28	at Atlanta	29-21
Oct. 6	NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	34-13
Oct. 12	Open Date	
Oct. 19	at Oakland	25-28
Oct. 26	at Buffalo	*23-20
Nov. 2	SEATTLE	30-27
Nov. 9	CAROLINA	34-0
Nov. 16	at Kansas City	22-24
Nov. 24	OAKLAND (Mon.)	31-3
Nov. 30	at San Diego	38-28
Dec. 7	at Pittsburgh	24-35
Dec. 15	at San Francisco (Mon.)	17-34
Dec. 21	SAN DIEGO	38-3

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Aug. 31	at Miami	10-16
Sept. 7	NEW ENGLAND	6-31
Sept. 14	SEATTLE	3-31
Sept. 21	at Buffalo	35-37
Sept. 28	Open Date	
Oct. 5	NEW YORK JETS	12-16
Oct. 12	at Pittsburgh	22-24
Oct. 20	BUFFALO (Mon.)	6-9
Oct. 26	at San Diego	19-35
Nov. 2	TAMPA BAY	28-31
Nov. 9	CINCINNATI	13-28
Nov. 16	GREEN BAY	41-38
Nov. 23	at Detroit	10-32
Nov. 30	at New England	17-20
Dec. 7	at New York Jets	22-14
Dec. 14	MIAMI	41-0
Dec. 21	at Minnesota	28-39

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Aug. 31	at Baltimore	28-27
Sept. 7	NEW YORK GIANTS	40-13
Sept. 14	Open Date	
Sept. 22	PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	30-21
Sept. 28	at Washington	12-24
Oct. 5	CINCINNATI	21-13
Oct. 12	PHILADELPHIA	38-21
Oct. 19	at Dallas	22-26
Oct. 26	at Pittsburgh	*17-23
Nov. 2	at Tennessee	30-24
Nov. 9	KANSAS CITY	24-10
Nov. 16	TENNESSEE	17-9
Nov. 23	at Cincinnati	26-31
Nov. 30	BALTIMORE	29-27
Dec. 7	NEW ENGLAND	20-26
Dec. 14	at Buffalo	20-14
Dec. 21	at Oakland	20-9

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Aug. 31	at Denver	3-19
Sept. 8	at Oakland (Mon.)	28-27
Sept. 14	BUFFALO	22-16
Sept. 21	at Carolina	35-14
Sept. 28	SEATTLE	*20-17
Oct. 5	at Miami	14-17
Oct. 12	Open Date	
Oct. 16	SAN DIEGO (Thurs.)	31-3
Oct. 26	at St. Louis	28-20
Nov. 3	PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	13-10
Nov. 9	at Jacksonville	10-24
Nov. 16	DENVER	24-22
Nov. 23	at Seattle	19-14
Nov. 30	SAN FRANCISCO	44-9
Dec. 7	OAKLAND	30-0
Dec. 14	at San Diego	29-7
Dec. 21	NEW ORLEANS	25-13

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Aug. 31	INDIANAPOLIS	16-10
Sept. 7	TENNESSEE	*16-13
Sept. 14	at Green Bay	18-23
Sept. 21	at Tampa Bay	21-31
Sept. 28	Open Date	
Oct. 5	KANSAS CITY	17-14
Oct. 12	at New York Jets	31-20
Oct. 19	at Baltimore	24-13
Oct. 27	CHICAGO (Mon.)	*33-36
Nov. 2	at Buffalo	6-9
Nov. 9	NEW YORK JETS	24-17
Nov. 17	BUFFALO (Mon.)	30-13
Nov. 23	at New England	24-27
Nov. 30	at Oakland	34-16
Dec. 7	DETROIT	33-30
Dec. 14	at Indianapolis	0-41
Dec. 22	NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	12-14

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Aug. 31	SAN DIEGO	41-7
Sept. 7	at Indianapolis	31-6
Sept. 14	NEW YORK JETS	*27-24
Sept. 21	CHICAGO	31-3
Sept. 28	Open Date	
Oct. 6	at Denver (Mon.)	13-34
Oct. 12	BUFFALO	33-6
Oct. 19	at New York Jets	19-24
Oct. 27	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	10-28
Nov. 2	at Minnesota	18-23
Nov. 9	at Buffalo	31-10
Nov. 16	at Tampa Bay	7-27
Nov. 23	MIAMI	27-24
Nov. 30	INDIANAPOLIS	20-17
Dec. 7	at Jacksonville	26-20
Dec. 13	PITTSBURGH (Sat.)	*21-24
Dec. 22	at Miami (Mon.)	14-12

NEW YORK JETS

Aug. 31	at Seattle	41-3
Sept. 7	BUFFALO	22-28
Sept. 14	at New England	*24-27
Sept. 21	OAKLAND	23-22
Sept. 28	at Cincinnati	31-14
Oct. 5	at Indianapolis	16-12
Oct. 12	MIAMI	20-31
Oct. 19	NEW ENGLAND	24-19
Oct. 26	Open Date	
Nov. 2	BALTIMORE	*19-16
Nov. 9	at Miami	17-24
Nov. 16	at Chicago	23-15
Nov. 23	MINNESOTA	23-21
Nov. 30	at Buffalo	10-20
Dec. 7	INDIANAPOLIS	14-22
Dec. 14	TAMPA BAY	31-0
Dec. 21	at Detroit	10-13

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Aug. 31	at Tennessee	*21-24
Sept. 8	KANSAS CITY (Mon.)	27-28
Sept. 14	at Atlanta	36-31
Sept. 21	at New York Jets	22-23
Sept. 28	ST. LOUIS	35-17
Oct. 5	SAN DIEGO	10-25
Oct. 12	Open Date	
Oct. 19	DENVER	28-25
Oct. 26	at Seattle	34-45
Nov. 2	at Carolina	14-38
Nov. 9	NEW ORLEANS	10-13
Nov. 16	at San Diego	38-13
Nov. 24	at Denver (Mon.)	3-31
Nov. 30	MIAMI	16-34
Dec. 7	at Kansas City	0-30
Dec. 14	SEATTLE	21-22
Dec. 21	JACKSONVILLE	9-20

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Aug. 31	DALLAS	7-37
Sept. 7	WASHINGTON	14-13
Sept. 14	Open Date	
Sept. 22	at Jacksonville (Mon.)	21-30
Sept. 28	TENNESSEE	37-24
Oct. 5	at Baltimore	42-34
Oct. 12	INDIANAPOLIS	24-22
Oct. 19	at Cincinnati	26-10
Oct. 26	JACKSONVILLE	*23-17
Nov. 3	at Kansas City (Mon.)	10-13
Nov. 9	BALTIMORE	37-0
Nov. 16	CINCINNATI	20-3
Nov. 23	at Philadelphia	20-23
Nov. 30	at Arizona	*26-20
Dec. 7	DENVER	35-24
Dec. 13	at New England (Sat.)	*24-21
Dec. 21	at Tennessee	6-16

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Aug. 31	at New England	7-41
Sept. 7	at New Orleans	20-6
Sept. 14	CAROLINA	7-26
Sept. 21	at Seattle	22-26
Sept. 28	BALTIMORE	21-17
Oct. 5	at Oakland	25-10
Oct. 12	Open Date	
Oct. 16	at Kansas City (Thurs.)	3-31
Oct. 26	INDIANAPOLIS	35-19
Nov. 2	at Cincinnati	31-38
Nov. 9	SEATTLE	31-37
Nov. 16	OAKLAND	13-38
Nov. 23	at San Francisco	10-17
Nov. 30	DENVER	28-38
Dec. 7	ATLANTA	3-14
Dec. 14	KANSAS CITY	7-29
Dec. 21	at Denver	3-38

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Aug. 31	NEW YORK JETS	3-41
Sept. 7	DENVER	14-35
Sept. 14	at Indianapolis	31-3
Sept. 21	SAN DIEGO	26-22
Sept. 28	at Kansas City	*17-20
Oct. 5	TENNESSEE	16-13
Oct. 12	Open Date	
Oct. 19	at St. Louis	17-9
Oct. 26	OAKLAND	45-34
Nov. 2	at Denver	27-30
Nov. 9	at San Diego	37-31
Nov. 16	at New Orleans	*17-20
Nov. 23	KANSAS CITY	14-19
Nov. 30	ATLANTA	17-24
Dec. 7	at Baltimore	24-31
Dec. 14	at Oakland	22-21
Dec. 21	SAN FRANCISCO	38-9

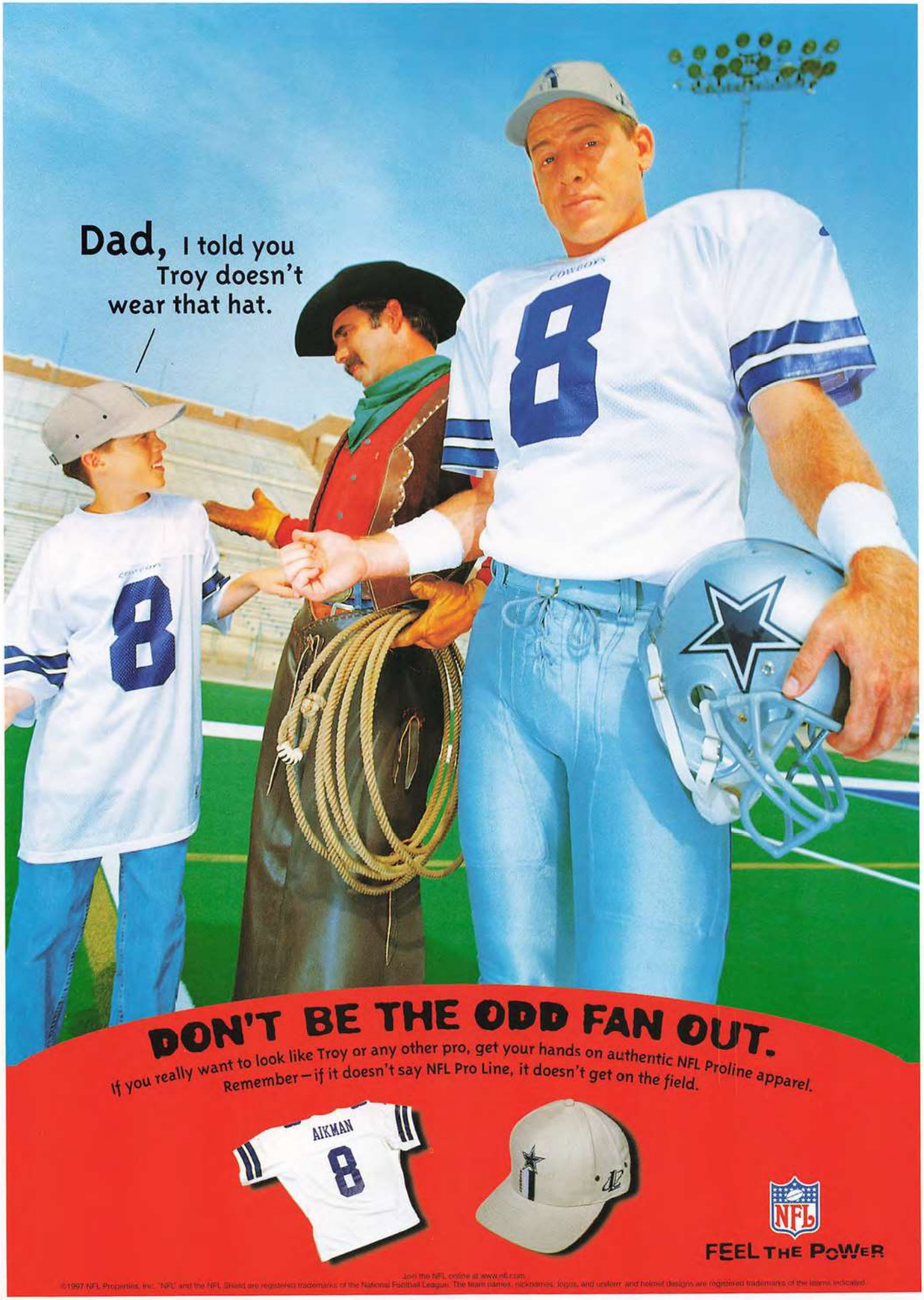
TENNESSEE OILERS

Aug. 31	OAKLAND	*24-21
Sept. 7	at Miami	*13-16
Sept. 14	Open Date	
Sept. 21	BALTIMORE	10-36
Sept. 28	at Pittsburgh	24-37
Oct. 5	at Seattle	13-16
Oct. 12	CINCINNATI	30-7
Oct. 19	WASHINGTON	28-14
Oct. 26	at Arizona	41-14
Nov. 2	JACKSONVILLE	24-30
Nov. 9	NEW YORK GIANTS	10-6
Nov. 16	at Jacksonville	9-17
Nov. 23	BUFFALO	31-14
Nov. 27	at Dallas (Thurs.)	27-14
Dec. 4	at Cincinnati (Thurs.)	14-41
Dec. 14	at Baltimore	19-21
Dec. 21	PITTSBURGH	16-6

1997 STANDINGS

EASTERN	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS.	OP
New England	10	6	0	.625	369	289
Miami	9	7	0	.563	339	327
N.Y. Jets	9	7	0	.563	348	287
Buffalo	6	10	0	.375	255	367
Indianapolis	3	13	0	.188	313	401
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PTS.**	**OP**
Pittsburgh	11	5	0	.688	372	307
Jacksonville	11	5	0	.688	394	318
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	333	310
Cincinnati	7	9	0	.438	355	405
Baltimore	6	9	1	.406	326	345
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PTS.**	**OP**
Kansas City	13	3	0	.813	375	232
Denver	12	4	0	.750	472	287
Seattle	8	8	0	.500	365	362
Oakland	4	12	0	.250	324	419
San Diego	4	12	0	.250	266	425

*Overtime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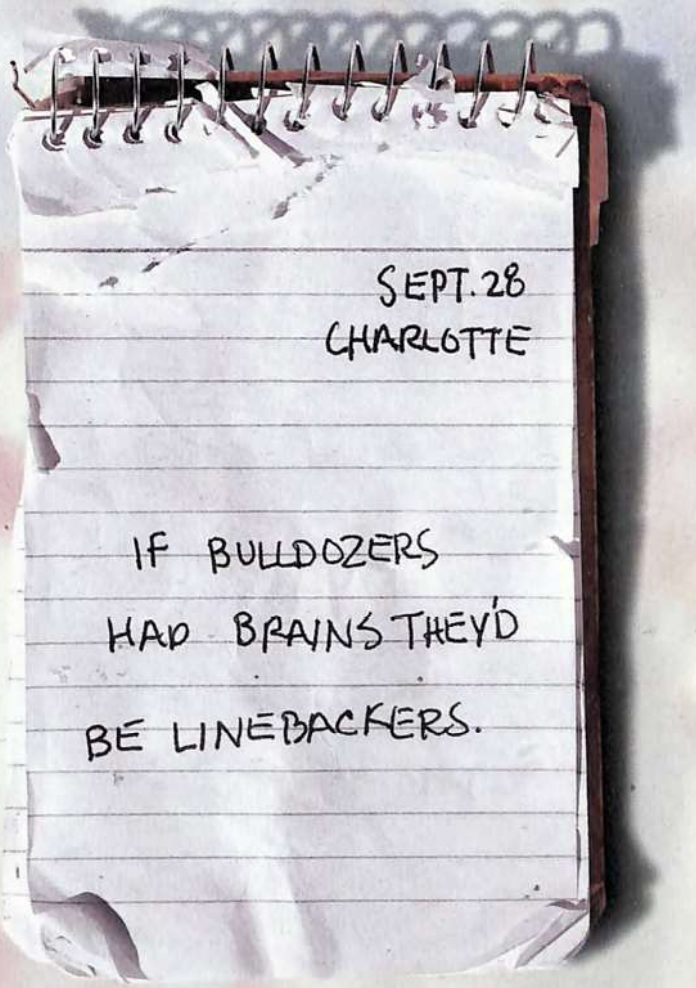

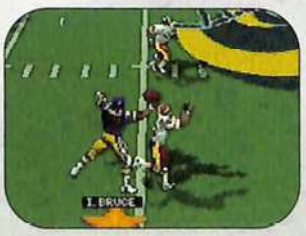

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